賭博覇王伝 零 ZERO

ゼロ ギャンKI鬼 GYANKI

10

福本伸行

KCDX

KCDX3464

KC DELUXE

賭博覇王伝 零 ゼロ

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賭博覇王伝 ゼロ 零

ギャンKI鬼 GYANKI ZERO

翻弄され続けた日々
謎解きの旅
それがいよいよ決着する!

ZERO

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賭博覇王伝 ゼロ ギャン鬼編 10

福本伸行

NOBUYUKI FUKUMOTO PRESENTS

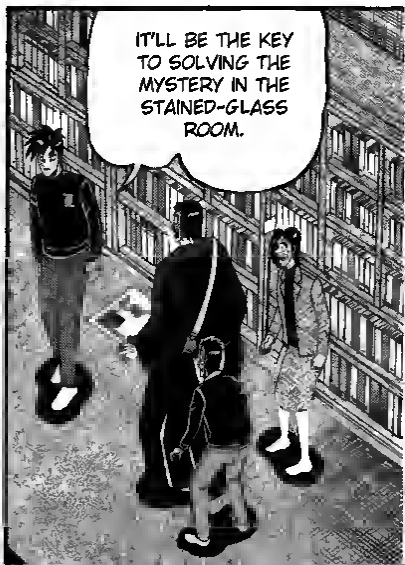
ZERO

Chapter 80 Bikou

DESPITE THE SEEMING MISTAKE, IF VIEWED IN THE INTENDED CONTEXT...
IT CAN'T BE THAT.

IT'LL MAKE PROPER SENSE!

IN ANY CASE,
A POSSIBLE HINT TO FINDING THE SECRET ENTRANCE...
LET'S GO.


IT'LL BE THE KEY TO SOLVING THE MYSTERY IN THE STAINED-GLASS ROOM.

LET'S GO THE STAINED GLASS ROOM!
ACTUALLY,
Incense Room
BEFORE THAT...

PLEASE LET ME IN! I HEARD ABOUT THE FINAL MESSAGE YOU FOUND!
SIR, PLEASE!
Director Okajima
THE TREASURE ...
Iaconso Room
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO HELP!
IS AT "BIKOU," ISN'T IT!?
NGH!
AH...
DAMN IT,
HOW'D HE FIND OUT ABOUT THE MESSAGE ...
SIR,
YOUR SON, TATSUKI IS
HUH?

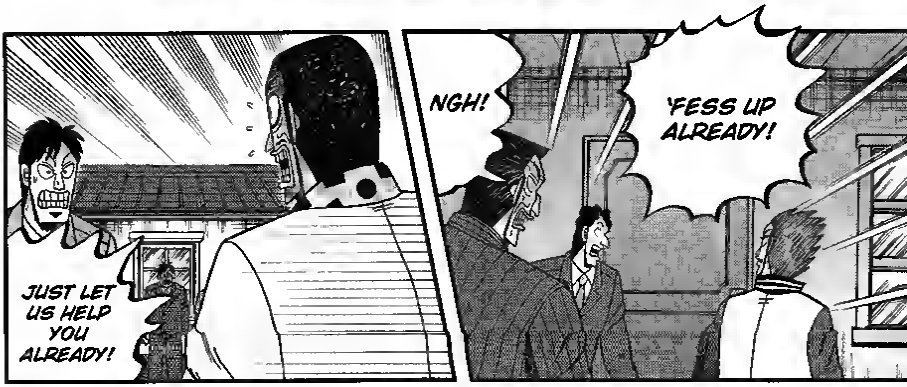
KEE KEE
IT WAS YOU WHO TOLD OKAJIMA ABOUT THE BIKOU, WASN'T IT!?
AH...!
KEE KEE KEE
SO WHAT IF I DID?
NOT LIKE IT MAKES MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE AS LONG AS YOUR MEN CONTINUE TO PROHIBIT ENTRY TO THIS ROOM.
NO HARM DONE.
NGH!
HOW'RE THINGS COMING ALONG, POPS?
MORE IMPORTANTLY,

WELL,
MNN...
HAVE YOU FOUND THE SECRET DOOR YET?
ANYWHERE IN THIS SMALL ROOM..
OR A SWITCH OF ANY SORT,
BUT WE'VE STILL YET TO FIND ANY SECRET ENTRANCE
THE MEN HAVE BEEN AT IT FOR CLOSE TO AN HOUR
HM...
WE WON'T GET ANYWHERE
JUST AS I FEARED
UNTIL THE MYSTERY BEHIND THIS NOTE IS SOLVED...
Ooo
ゴソ…

Mean-
while,
outside
...
ARE YOU ALRIGHT SUE-ZAKI?
!?...
!?...
!?
DID YOU HEAR?
THE MESSAGE HAS BEEN LEAKED!
ZERO!
APPARENTLY,
THE TREASURE IS AT "BIKOU"

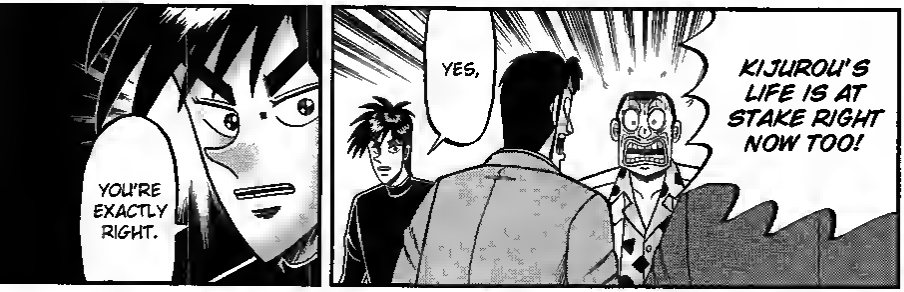
THE PRESIDENT AND HIS FACTION SEEMS TO THINK THE MESSAGE IS REFERRING TO THE INCENSE ROOM AND HAVE BEEN BARRING ALL ACCESS IN THERE,
TO OBVI-OUSLY MYSELF,
AND OKAJIMA INCLUDED...
チャ...
"BIKOU," HUH...
I GIVE UP...
SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS...
HAHA

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU'VE SHUT YOURSELF IN THERE!?
YOU STILL HAVEN'T FOUND THE ENTRANCE YET!
CLEARLY,
GIVE IT A REST!
HEY, COME ON!


JUST LET US HELP YOU ALREADY!
NGH!
'FESS UP ALREADY!

...
HE'S STANDING RIGHT HERE SO LET HIM IN!
IN FACT...
COME ON!
LET ZERO IN!
OR AT THE VERY LEAST,

I KNOW THERE'S A LOT OF MONEY AT STAKE,
NOT AGAINST EACH OTHER!
WE SHOULD BE WORKING TOGETHER RIGHT NOW.
BUT LET'S NOT FORGET,


YOU'RE EXACTLY RIGHT.
YES,
KIJUROU'S LIFE IS AT STAKE RIGHT NOW TOO!

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF GOING IN THE ROOM.
DON'T MIND ME,
EXCUSE ME.
I SIMPLY WISH TO TALK TO THOSE INSIDE FOR A MOMENT

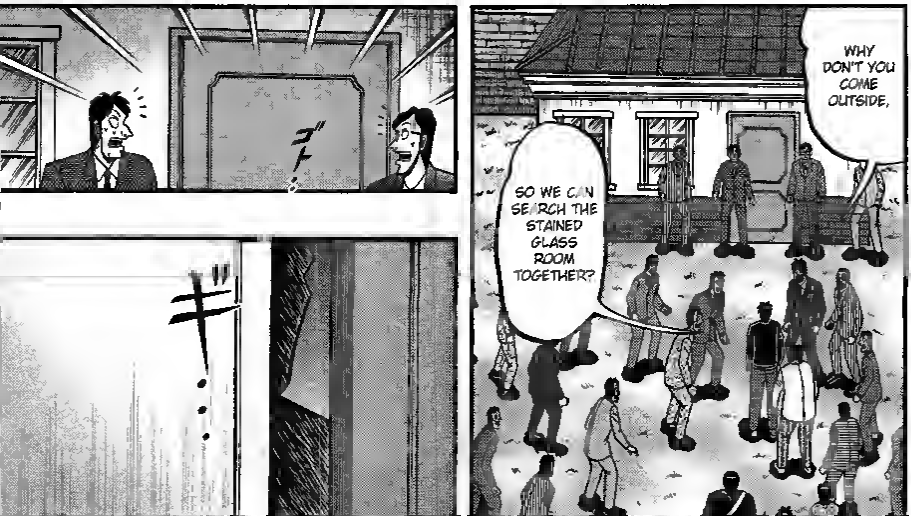
HM?
CAN YOU HEAR ME, PRESIDENT TAKAMITSU?
ZERO?
ZERO!
IT'S...
I'M AFRAID TO INFORM YOU THAT THE INCENSE ROOM,
SIR,
HIDES NO TREASURE!

WHA?
W-
ざわ…ざわ…
ざわ…
WHAT NON-SENSE IS THIS!
IT'S THE TRUTH.
YOU SEE,
USING AN ALTERNATE PATH LAID FOR US BY KIJUROU,
I'VE ARRIVED AT THE ANSWER AS WELL
R-REALLY, ZERO!?
AND IT'S CERTAINLY NOT THE INCENSE ROOM!
HMPH!
ABSOLUTE RUBBISH!

YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT!?
I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOU!
YOU'RE CLEARLY TRYING TO TRICK US,
INTO LEAVING THIS ROOM,
SO YOU CAN SNEAK IN-
THE REAL LOCATION OF THE TREASURE,
IS THE STAINED GLASS ROOM!

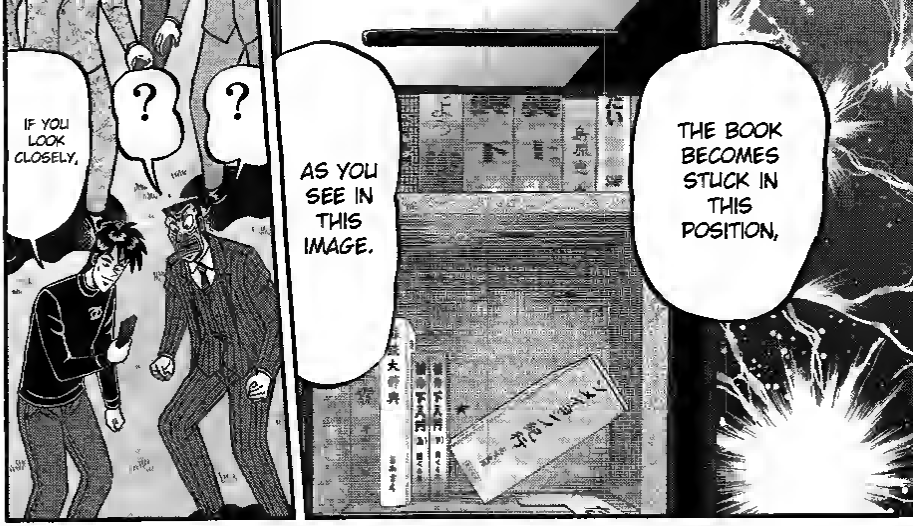
I-IS THAT TRUE, ZERO!?
ZERO!
ざわ・ざわ・
ざわ・
ざわ・

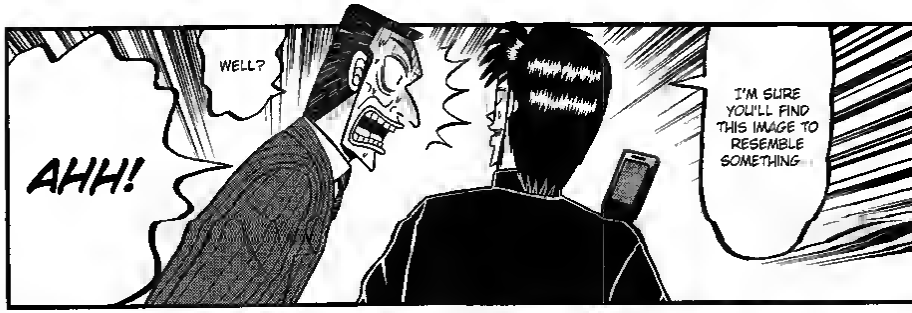
IF YOU WILL,
I'LL FILL YOU IN LATER.
HOW'D YOU FIGURE THAT OUT!?


ゴト
WHY DON'T YOU COME OUTSIDE,
SO WE CAN SEARCH THE STAINED GLASS ROOM TOGETHER?

ENOUGH WITH YOUR LIES!
THE TREASURE IS AT "BIKOU,"
MEANING FAINT LIGHT OR SCENT!
IT'S EITHER OF THE TWO!
AND NEITHER MEANING WOULD FIT WITH THE STAINED GLASS ROOM!
HA,
WHY ON EARTH WOULD YOU EXPECT THAT FLASHY ROOM TO BE THE-
YOU'RE WAY OFF TARGET!
HUH?
JUST AS I EXPECTED.
IT'S QUITE EASY TO FALL INTO THE TRAP OF THINKING BIKOU WOULD MEAN FAINT SCENT,
OR FAINT LIGHT...

Y-YES, ACTUALLY...
SIR,
AH!
WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED TO BE WRITTEN IN HIRAGANA OR KATAKANA, DID IT...?
BY ANY CHANCE, THE WORD "BIKOU,"
HUH?
PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK AT THIS PICTURE
INCIDENTALLY BY YOU, OF COURSE.
IS TIPPED OVER LIKE SO...
WHEN THE BOOK SOMEI-YOSHINO JOURNAL,
HAVE BEEN TAKEN OUT,
THIS IS THE BOOKSHELF AFTER ALL THE BOOKS FROM TA TO NU,


IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY,
?
?
AS YOU SEE IN THIS IMAGE.
THE BOOK BECOMES STUCK IN THIS POSITION,


WELL?
AHH!
I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND THIS IMAGE TO RESEMBLE SOMETHING

AS THE GROUNDS OF THIS VILLA!
IT'S THE SAME SHAPE,
IN OTHER WORDS,
YES.
I-IT'S...!

THE BOOKSHELF TRANSFORMS INTO A TREASURE MAP,
WITH THIS STAR HERE,
MARKING THE TREASURE!
AND THAT PLACE IS NONE OTHER THAN THE STAINED GLASS ROOM!
AGHH!
B...
BUT-
WHAT ABOUT THE MESSAGE?
THE BIKOU!
THAT TOO, CAN BE EASILY UNDERSTOOD WHEN TURNING THIS IMAGE ON ITS SIDE.
WHA?

AGHHHHH!
I-IS THAT A MAN'S FACE!?
IT CERTAINLY IS
AND THE STAR IS LOCATED,
RIGHT BY THE NOSE
IN OTHER WORDS,

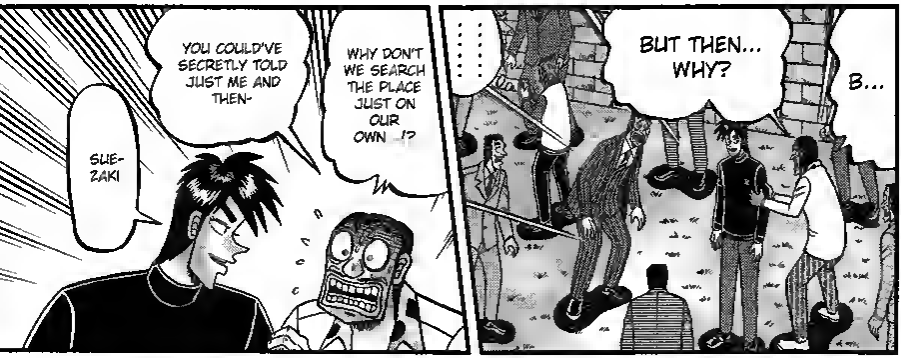
THE "BIKOU" (NASAL CAVITY)!
T...
THEN YOU MEAN,
THE TREASURE BEING AT "BIKOU,"
NOW THEN...
THAT'S HOW IT IS!
HA
REFERRED TO THE NOSE IN THE MAP ALL ALONG!?

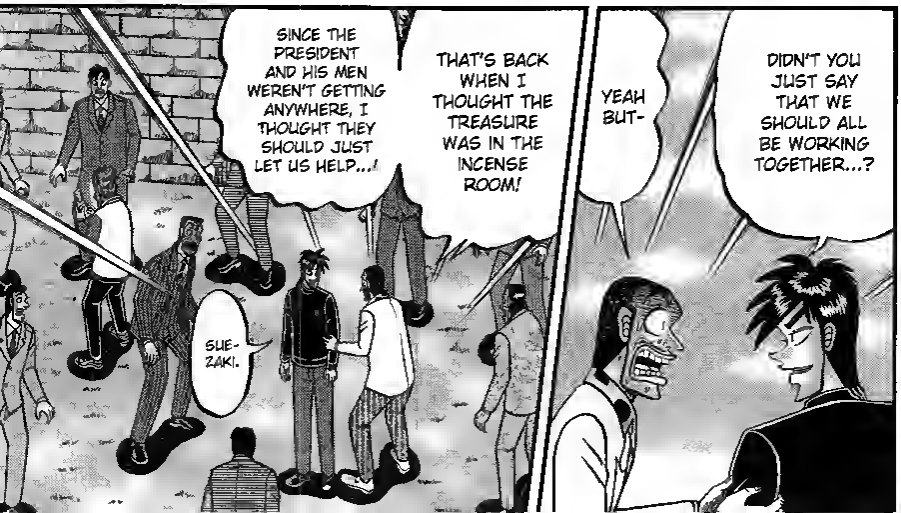
LET'S HEAD TO THE STAINED GLASS ROOM TOGETHER!
IT'S TIME TO SAVE KIJUROU!

Chapter 81 Wish

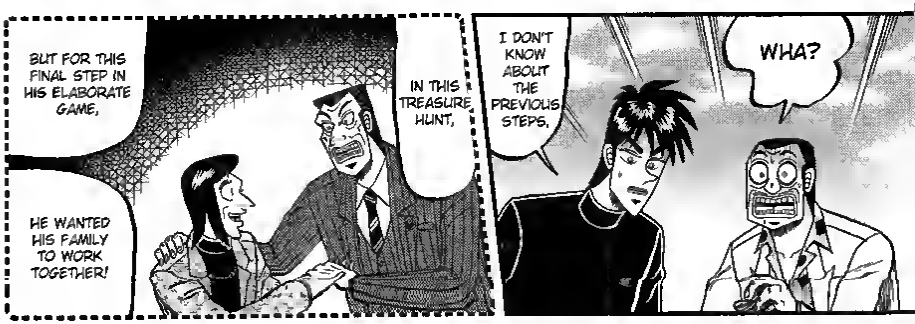
AH!
WHA-
ZERO!
THIS IS...
BUT BASICALLY,
I DON'T QUITE GET EVERYTHING,
WHILE I WAS GONE,
WHAT'S THIS RUBBISH ABOUT SEARCHING TOGETHER!?

YOU'VE MANAGED TO FIGURE OUT THE LOCATION OF THE TREASURE ROOM, RIGHT?
YES.


B...
BUT THEN... WHY?
.....
WHY DON'T WE SEARCH THE PLACE JUST ON OUR OWN...!?
YOU COULD'VE SECRETLY TOLD JUST ME AND THEN-
SUE-ZAKI


DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY THAT WE SHOULD ALL BE WORKING TOGETHER...?
YEAH BUT-
THAT'S BACK WHEN I THOUGHT THE TREASURE WAS IN THE INCENSE ROOM!
SINCE THE PRESIDENT AND HIS MEN WEREN'T GETTING ANYWHERE, I THOUGHT THEY SHOULD JUST LET US HELP...!
SUE-ZAKI.

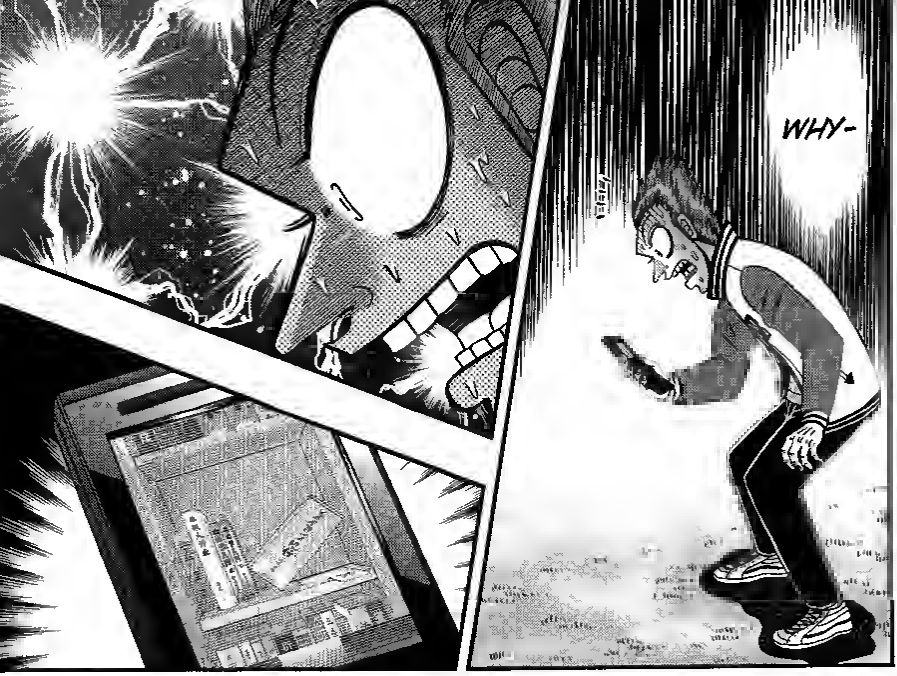
WHAT KIJUROU DESIRES,
IS COOP-ERATION!


WHA?
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE PREVIOUS STEPS,
IN THIS TREASURE HUNT,
BUT FOR THIS FINAL STEP IN HIS ELABORATE GAME,
HE WANTED HIS FAMILY TO WORK TOGETHER!

I'M SURE OF IT!
THAT'S WHY,
HE PREPARED TWO WAYS,
TO FIND THE TREASURE ROOM!
HE CLEARLY WANTED HIS CHILDREN TO COME TOGETHER FOR THE FINAL PART!
GAAAHH!

AH!
THIS WAS OUR CHANCE TO GET AHEAD!
GOD DAMN IT!
WHERE DO YOU GET OFF BEING SO GOODY TWO-SHOES!?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
HOW COULD A MAP JUST APPEAR,
IN THE BOOK-SHELF LIKE THIS...!?
DAMN IT!

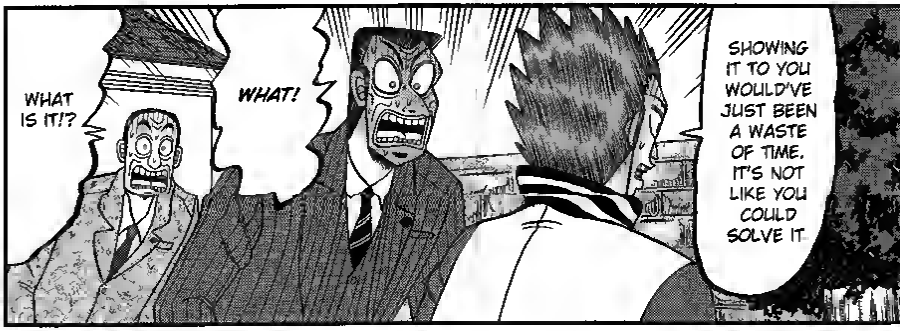
I'VE BEEN BEATEN AGAIN!
DAMN IT, DAMN IT, DAMN IT!
HE ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS! BEATS ME TO THE FINISH LINE BY AN INCH EVERY TIME!
WHY?
BY ZERO!


WHY-

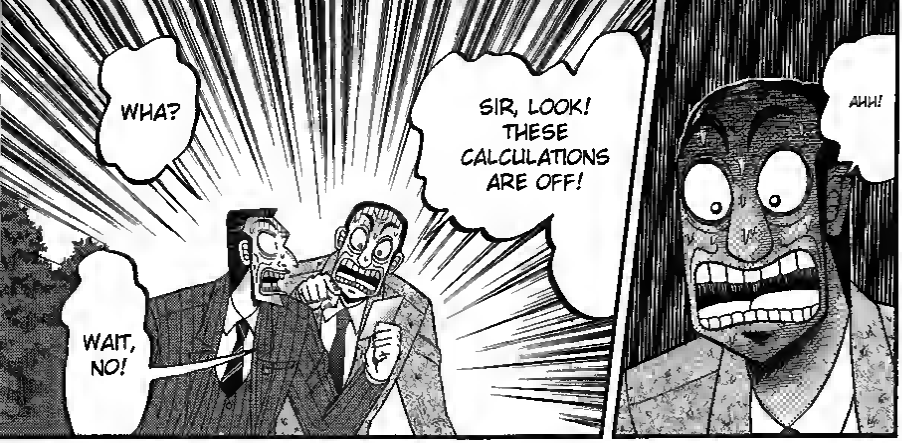
THEY'RE... THEY'RE...
THESE ADDI-TIONS!
DO YOU..
ZERO...
AHH!

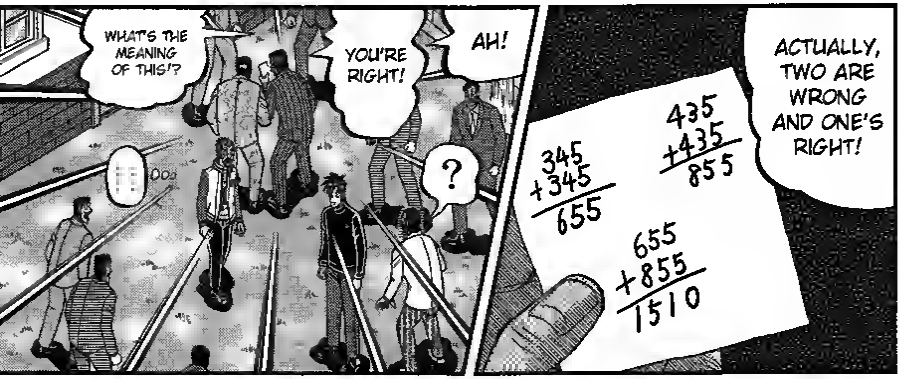
HAVE YOU ALREADY SOLVED THE MYSTERY BEHIND THEM!?
DO YOU ALREADY KNOW THE MEANING BEHIND THE ADDITIONS?
345 +345 655
435 +435 855
655 +855 1510
58
HUH?
THIS NOTE SAND-WICHED INSIDE.
WHAA?
435 +435 855
345 +345 655
655 +855 1510
I DIDN'T BOTHER TELLING YOU BEFORE, POPS.
WHAT ADDITIONS?
HUH?
THERE WAS.
BUT IN THE BOOK I WAS LOOKING THROUGH.

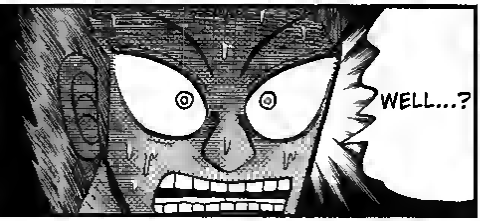
AS SOON AS YOU FOUND IT!?
AND WHY DIDN'T YOU SHOW IT TO ME,
WHAT'S THE POINT?
WHAT IS THIS!?
W-WHAT...


WHAT IS IT!?
WHAT!
SHOWING IT TO YOU WOULD'VE JUST BEEN A WASTE OF TIME. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU COULD SOLVE IT

WHY DO I HAVE TO SHOW IT TO YOU TOO...
NGH...
AH!
LET ME SEE TOO!
345 +345 690
435 +435 870
655 +855 1510

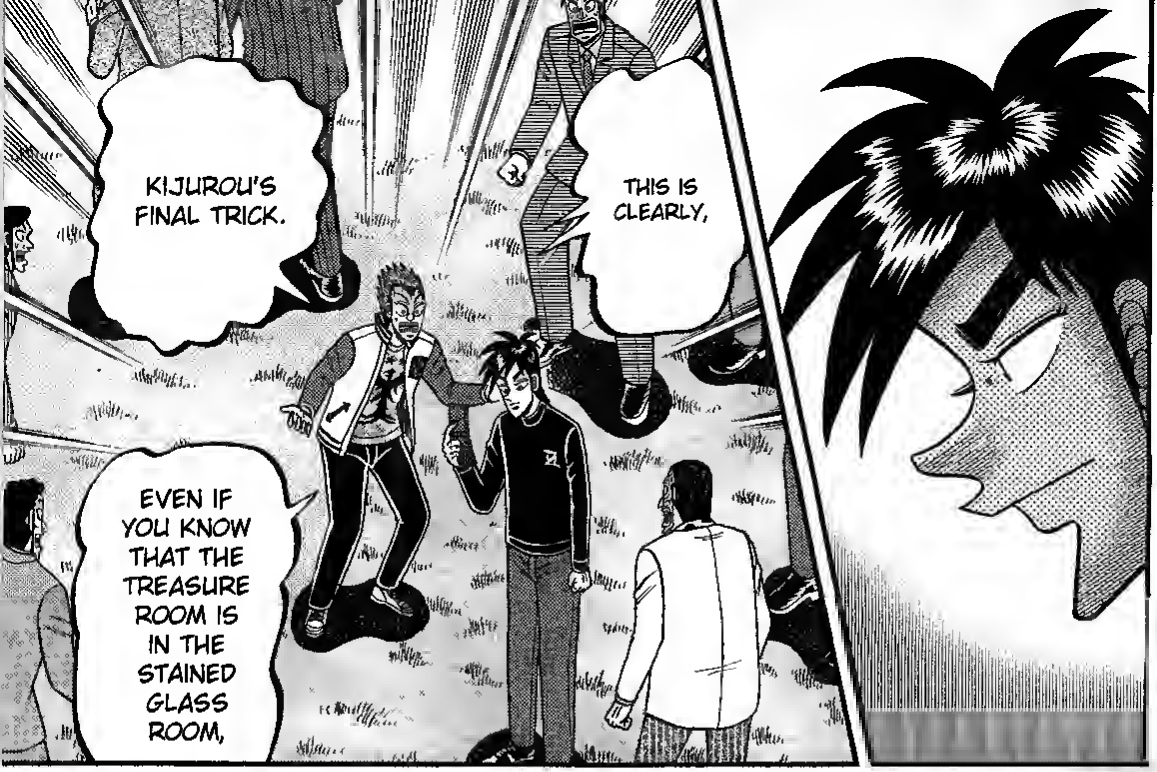

WHA?
SIR, LOOK! THESE CALCULATIONS ARE OFF!
AHH!
WAIT, NO!

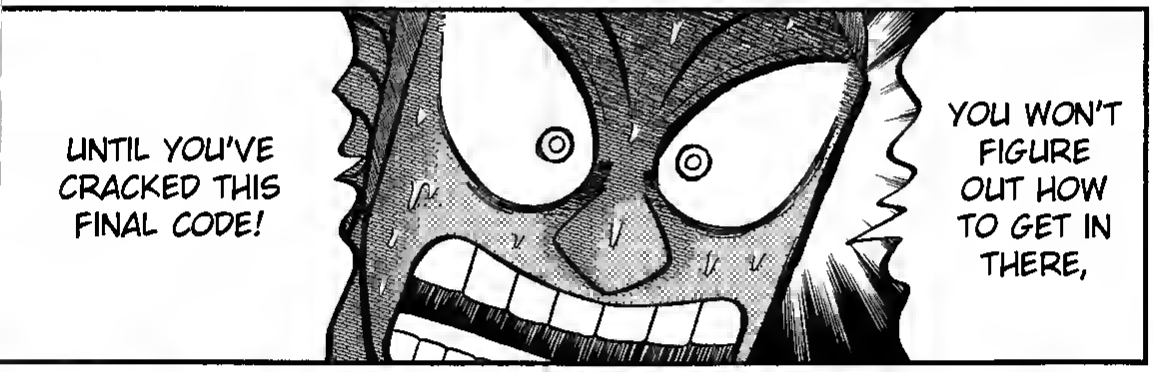

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS!?
YOU'RE RIGHT!
AH!
?
ACTUALLY, TWO ARE WRONG AND ONE'S RIGHT!
345 +345 655
435 +435 855
655 +855 1510

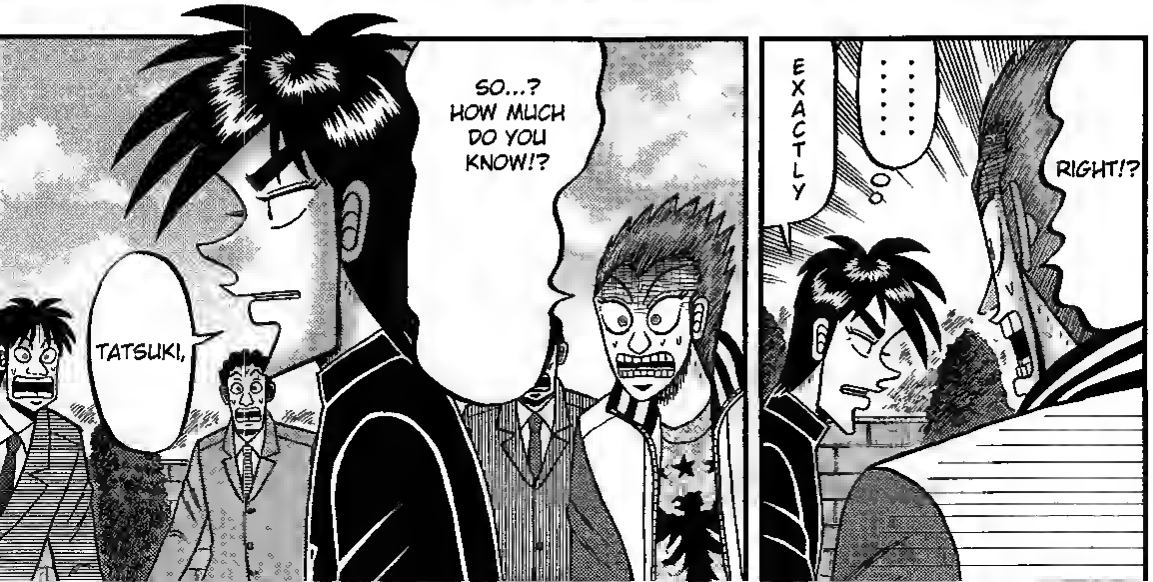

WELL...?

SO ZERO...

DO YOU KNOW THE MEANING BEHIND THESE ADDITIONS,
HAVE YOU SOLVED THE MYSTERY?
OR DON'T YOU!?
345 +345 655
435 +435 855
655 +855 1510


KIJUROU'S FINAL TRICK.
THIS IS CLEARLY,
EVEN IF YOU KNOW THAT THE TREASURE ROOM IS IN THE STAINED GLASS ROOM,

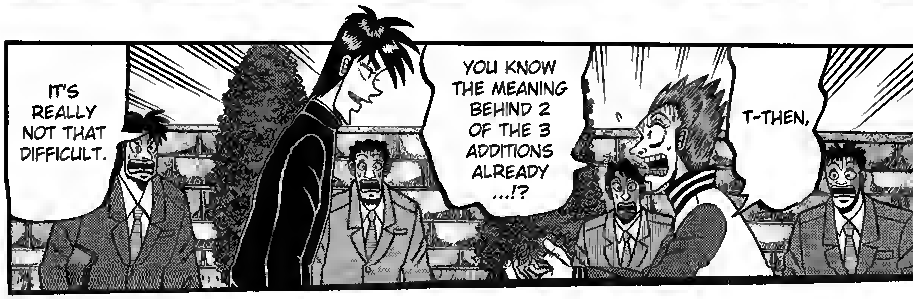

UNTIL YOU'VE CRACKED THIS FINAL CODE!
YOU WON'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET IN THERE,

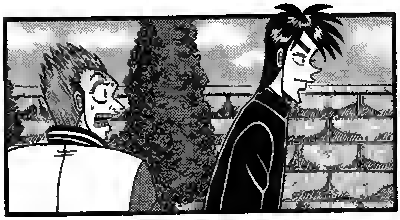

TATSUKI,
SO...? HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW!?
EXACTLY
.....
RIGHT!?

I FIGURED IT OUT ALREADY!
OF COURSE,

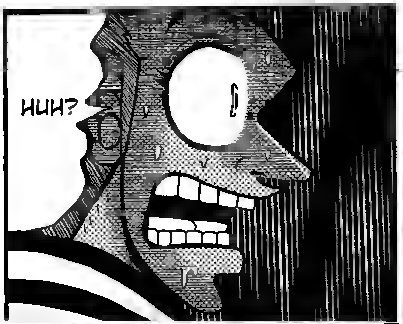
S-S-S-SERIOUSLY!?
S...
WHA...
HAHA...
SORRY,
THAT WAS A WHITE LIE JUST NOW.
TATSUKI
B-BUT YOU HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED LOOKING IN THE STAINED GLASS ROOM YET!

2/3...?
I'VE SOLVED TWO-THIRDS OF IT.
2/3!
WHA?


IT'S REALLY NOT THAT DIFFICULT.
YOU KNOW THE MEANING BEHIND 2 OF THE 3 ADDITIONS ALREADY ...!?
T-THEN,



I'M SURE THAT ONCE WE ENTER THE ROOM,
YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT RIGHT AWAY TOO!


HUH?

DIRECTOR OKAJIMA,
PRESI-DENT TAKA-MITSU,
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN!?
W-WHAT?
NAOKI,
AND OF COURSE,
MA'AM,
TOGETHER,
LET'S ALL GO TO THE STAINED GLASS ROOM!
YOU AS WELL, TATSUKI.

WE'LL SOLVE THE FINAL MYSTERY!
THE LONG JOURNEY THAT BEGAN ON THE SPRING EQUINOX...
WHICH TOOK US THROUGH MANY FALSE LEADS...

ブッダ／サイコ＝ト
丑
寅
卯
辰
巳
八
七
六
五
四
AND HAD US JUMP THROUGH ALL SORTS OF HOOPS...

IT'S TIME TO CONCLUDE THIS JOURNEY...!

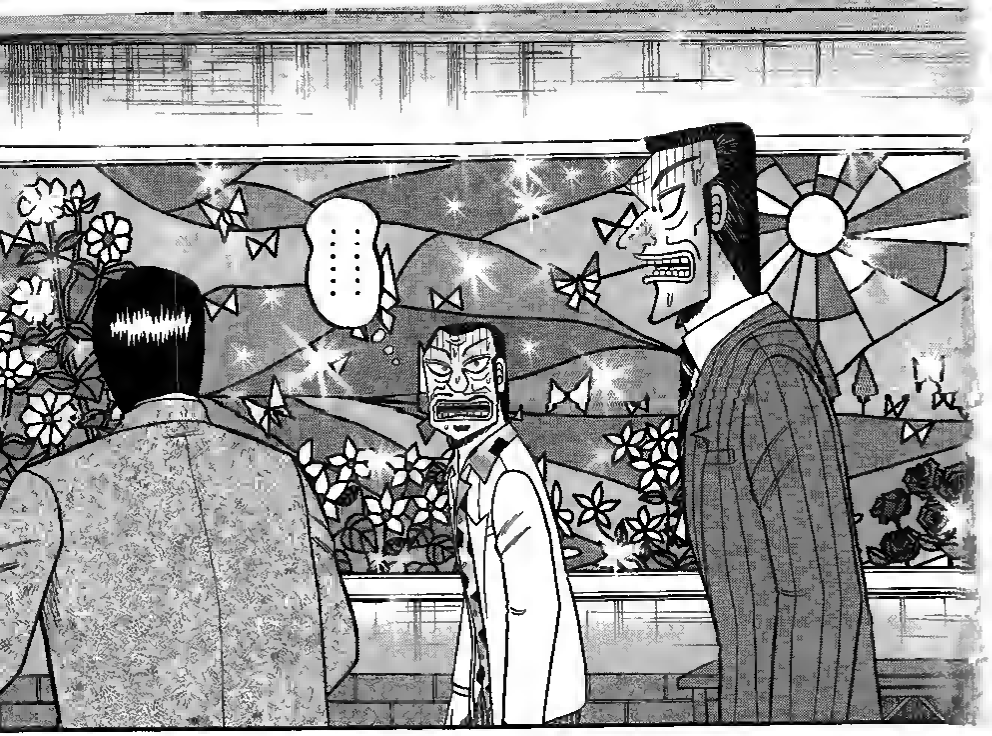
FROM TA TO NU...

IT ALL ENDS HERE IN THIS ROOM!
ギ
ガチ

AHH!

JUST WHAT COULD IT BE?
WHAT..
WHAT DOES THIS ROOM...
WHAT DID ZERO REALIZE...!?
345 +345 655
435 +435 855
655 +855 1510
AND ITS STAINED GLASS WINDOWS,
HAVE TO DO WITH THOSE THREE ADDITIONS?

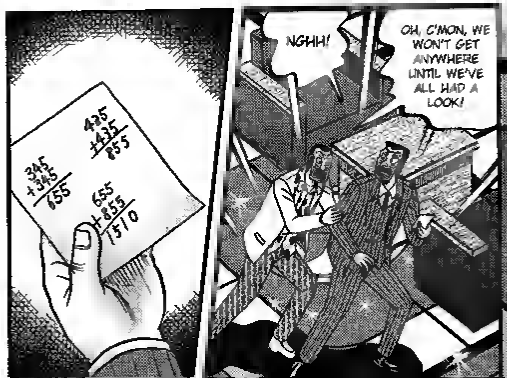
どんある
関係が
JUST WHAT DO THOSE ADDITIONS,
345
+345
655
435
+435
855
655
+855
1510
あの
この
HAVE TO DO WITH THIS ROOM!?
Chapter 82
Perspective
DAMN IT!
clusibe


……

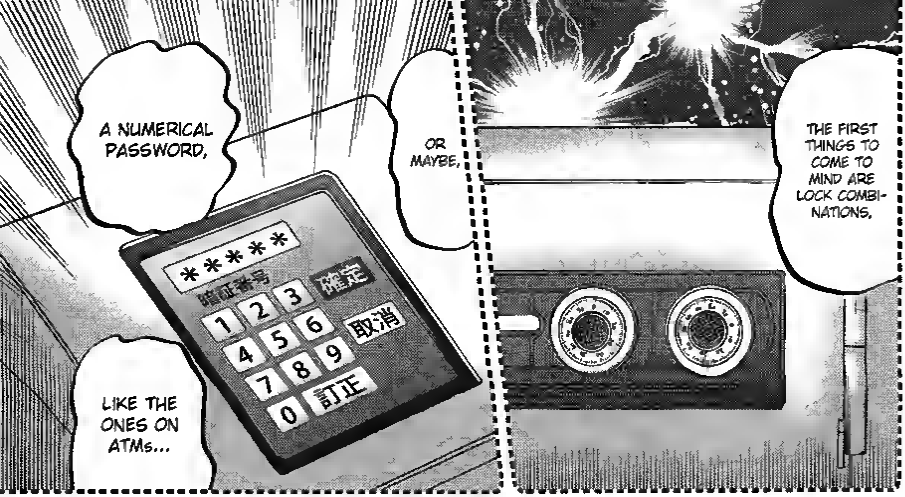
……
WHAT THE HELL?

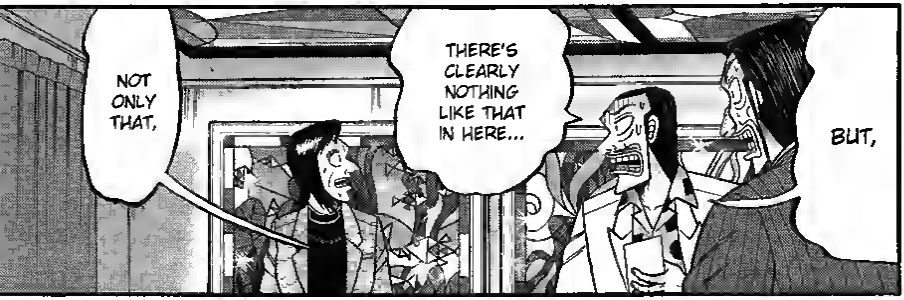
HUH?
SO WHAT IS ON THAT MEMO ANYWAYS?

HOW WOULD I KNOW!?
WHAT FOR?
ARITH-METIC?


NGHH!
OH, C'MON, WE WON'T GET ANYWHERE UNTIL WE'VE ALL HAD A LOOK!

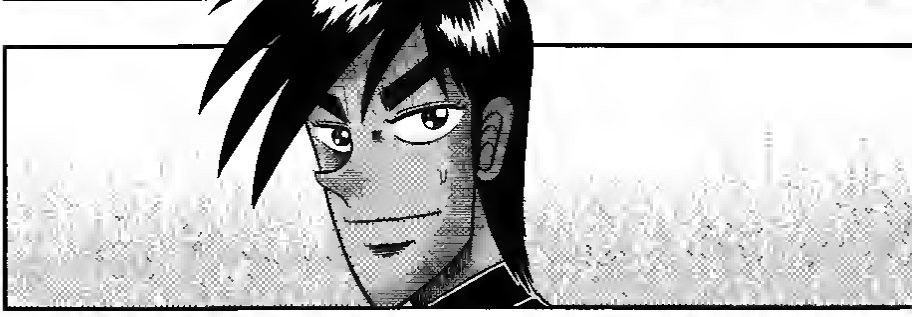
AND NUMBERS...
NORMALLY WHEN YOU THINK OF KEEPING PLACE FOR MONEY,
HMM...


THE FIRST THINGS TO COME TO MIND ARE LOCK COMBINATIONS,
OR MAYBE,
A NUMERICAL PASSWORD,
LIKE THE ONES ON ATMs...
暗証番号
確定
取消
訂正


BUT,
THERE'S CLEARLY NOTHING LIKE THAT IN HERE...
NOT ONLY THAT,

IF YOU'RE GONNA DO SOME ADDITIONS,
WHY WRITE DOWN WRONG CALCULATIONS!?
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF ALL THIS,
ZERO?
345 +345 655
435 +435 855
655 +855 1510

EVEN A GRADE-SCHOOLER,
WOULD KNOW THAT 345 + 345 IS 690!
WHY WRITE DOWN 655?
345 + 345 = 655
SUE-ZAKI,



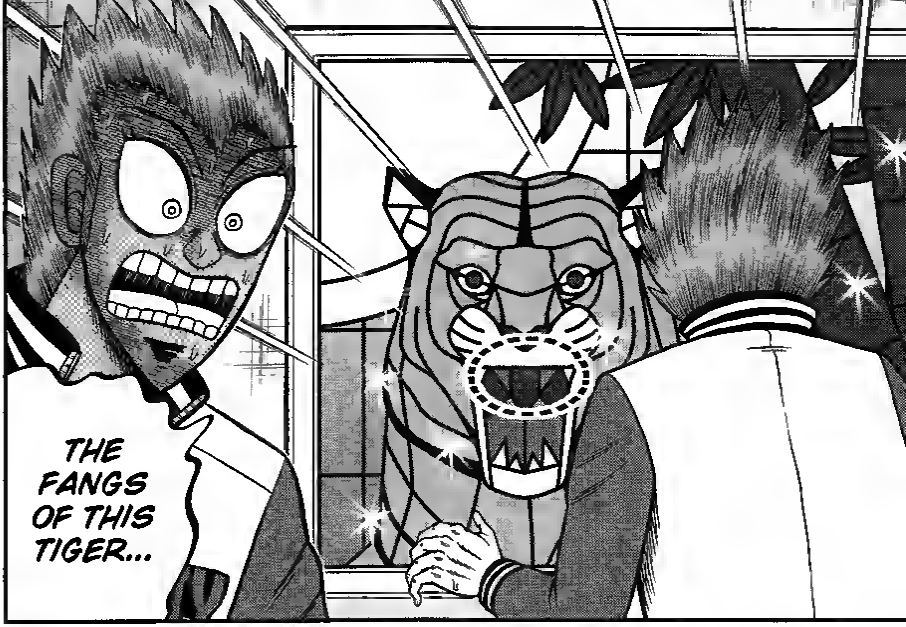
THERE ARE CERTAIN CASES,
IN WHICH 345 + 345 DOES EQUAL 655.
OR PERHAPS MORE ACCU-RATELY I SHOULD SAY,
345 AND 345,
CAN MAKE A 655.

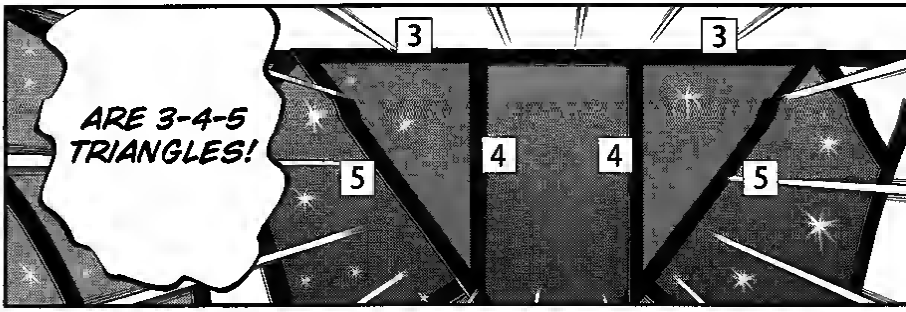
WHA?
HUH?
YES, THAT WOULD BE A BETTER WAY TO PHRASE IT.
MAKES 655...
A 345 AND 345,
AGHH!
!!

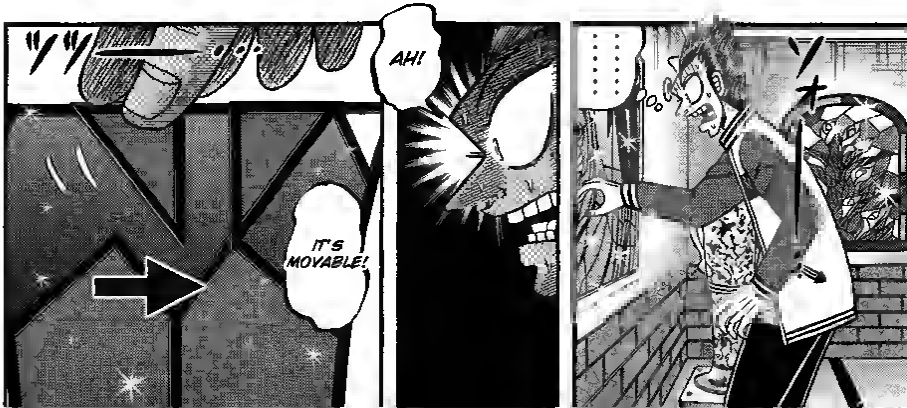
あ・
GAHH!
DAMN IT, DAMN IT, DAMN IT!
WHY DIDN'T I RE. LIZE IT SOONER!?
IT'S...
AHHH! I THINK I GOT IT TOO!
IT'S...
THAT'S WHAT THE NUMBERS MEAN!
T-THAT'S IT!

THE 3-4-5 TRIANGLE!
5
3
4
A TRIANGLE WITH THE SIDES 3, 4, AND 5 IS ALWAYS A RIGHT ANGLE TRIANGLE!
HUH?
SOMEWHERE IN THIS ROOM,
HIDDEN IN THE WINDOWS,
ARE 3-4-5 TRIANGLES THAT WE NEED TO FIND!

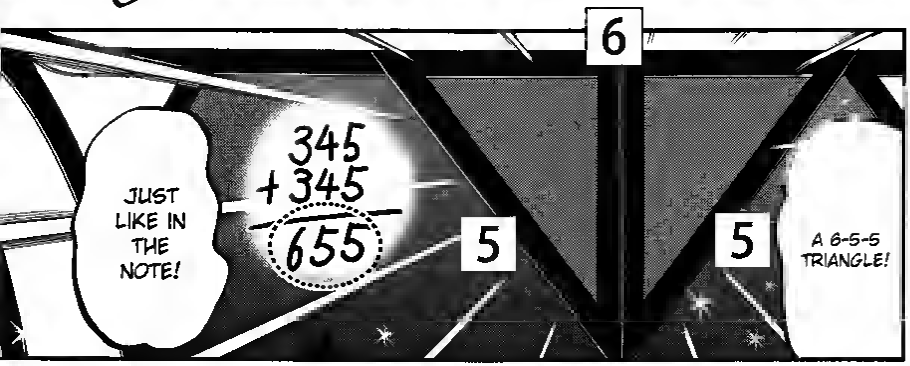
3-4-5...
AHH!
SOME-WHERE HERE!
THERE HAVE TO BE!
3-4-5!
3-4-5!
3-4-5!
WHA!
I FOUND IT!
NY 58

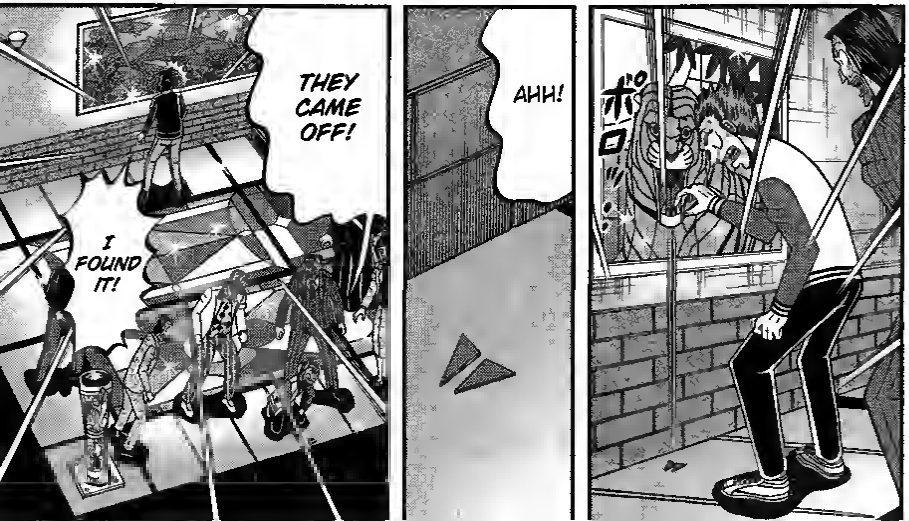

THE FANGS OF THIS TIGER...


ARE 3-4-5 TRIANGLES!
3
3
4
4
5
5


AH!
IT'S MOVABLE!

THE FANGS COMBINE TO FORM...
カッ
655!


6
345
+345
655
5
5
JUST LIKE IN THE NOTE!
A 6-5-5 TRIANGLE!

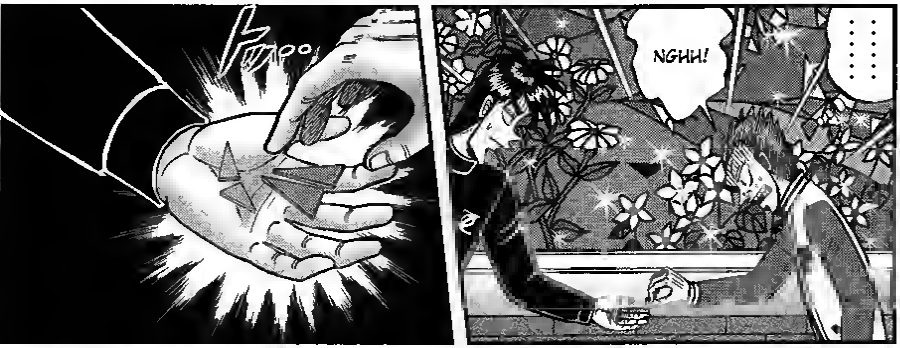

THEY CAME OFF!
I FOUND IT!
AHH!
ボロ

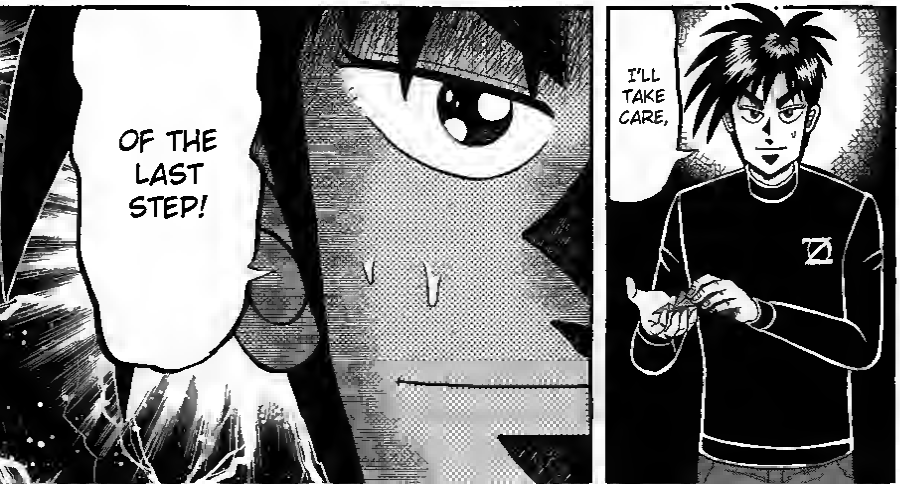
IT'S ANOTHER 3-4-5 TRIANGLE!
THE LITTLE BUTTER-FLIES HERE!
THE BUTTER-FLIES!
WHAT!?
IT'S MOVABLE!
AH!
OR AS THE NOTE WROTE, A 4-3-5 TRIANGLE!
A 4-3-5 AND A 4-3-5 TRIANGLE MAKES...
JUST LIKE WITH THE TIGER'S FANGS,

8-5-5!
カチ
4
4
3
5
5
435
+435
855
8
5
5
JUST LIKE IN THE NOTE!
AN 8-5-5 TRIANGLE!
IT CAME OFF!
IT...
THE BUTTERFLIES CAME OFF TOO!
ZERO!

THAT 3RD ADDITION ...
WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
BUT...
655
+855
1510
THE LONE ONE THAT'S CORRECT... WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
TATSUKI!
NAOKI,
UNLESS WE FIGURE THAT OUT-
FOR A MOMENT.
GIVE ME THOSE PIECES,

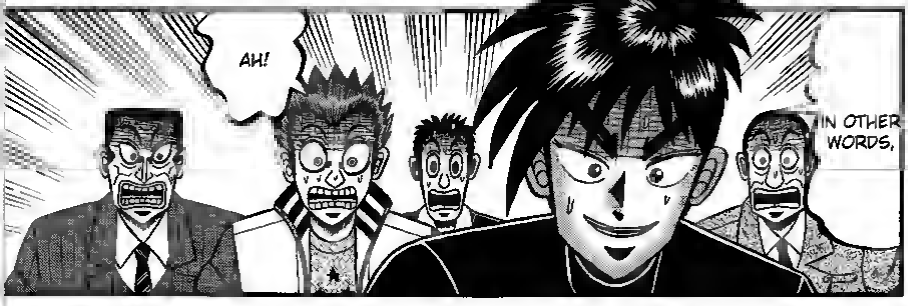
.....
O-OKAY, BUT ..
PLEASE!
HUH?


NGHH!
.....


OF THE LAST STEP!
I'LL TAKE CARE,

655 AND 855,
655 +855 1510
MAKES 1510.
THE SECRET,
TO THIS FINAL ADDITION,
LIES WITHIN...

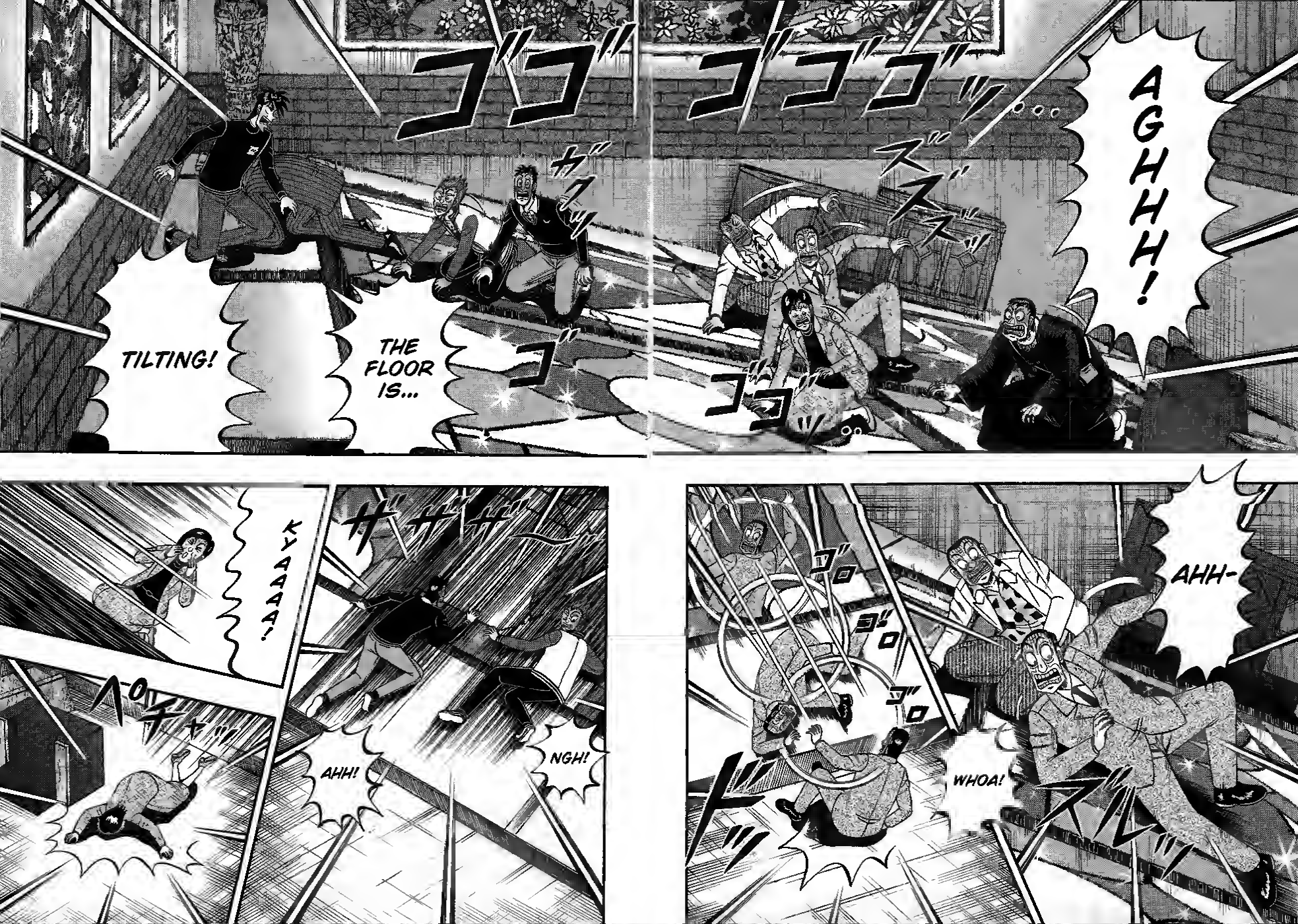
THIS BOWL OF FRUITS!
HUH?
IF YOU LOOK CLOSELY,
THERE'S ONE PART IN THIS PICTURE
THAT'S MISSING A PIECE OF STAINED GLASS...



*ALTERNATE READING FOR 1-5-1-0 IS "ICHI-GO-I-RE," MEANING "FILL IN THE STRAWBERRY"

WITH THIS, THE MYSTERY BEHIND ALL 3 ADDITIONS ARE SOLVED!
6
5
5
5
5
8
855
655
345 +345 655
435 +435 855
655 +655 1510
1510
ゴゴゴ
AHH!
THE SECRET ENTRANCE,
IS OPENING UP!

Chapter 83.Instant


ゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴゴ...
AGHHH!
TILTING!
THE FLOOR IS...
ガクッ
ズズ
ゴ
ゴゴ
KYAAAA!
ヘロチャ
AHH!
NGH!
ゴロ
ゴロ
ゴロ
ドド
AHH-
WHOA!
ズレ

GUH!
AHH!
ドゴゴゴゴ
NGHHH!
I SHOULD'VE JUST SLID DOWN LIKE THAT...
OHH...
ドン
ズズズ
WHEW, I'M F-
はぁ～

AGHHH!
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
ドカッ
AGH!
GAH!
OWWW!
UGH...
SORRY...
GOD, BE MORE CAREFUL, WILL Y...!?
.....

ススススッ
ス
……
IS EVERYONE ALRIGHT?
Y-YEAH,
MORE OR LESS...
THEN LET'S GET MOVING
THERE'S A CORRIDOR,
AND STAIR-CASE LEADING BELOW THIS WAY
BELOW HERE...

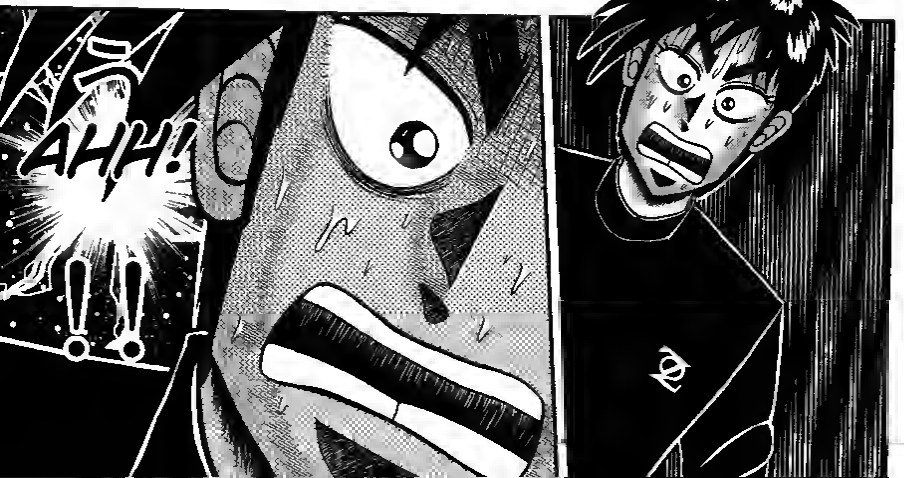
IS WHAT WE'VE ALL BEEN LOOKING FOR.
KIJUROU!
JUST PAST,
THIS DOOR
ドキ
ドキドキドキ
ギ!
ドキ
WE'RE HERE!
ドキドキドキ

ドキ
ドキ
ドキ
WE'RE FINALLY HERE!
THIS IS KIJUROU'S SECRET ROOM!
AH!
HUH?
THIS ISN'T GOOD!
THIS PLACE IS FAR TOO TIDY!
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A PLACE,
THAT A PERSON'S BEEN LIVING IN...!

IT...
ZERO?
W-WHAT DOES THIS MEAN!?
HUH?
THAT KIJUROU IS ALREADY...
IT MIGHT MEAN
THEN HE SHOULD BE-
IF HE'S STILL HERE,
THE BED-ROOM!
WHA!?

WHERE IS IT!?
WHERE'S THE BEDROOM!?
THIS IS THE WRONG ROOM!
DAMN IT!

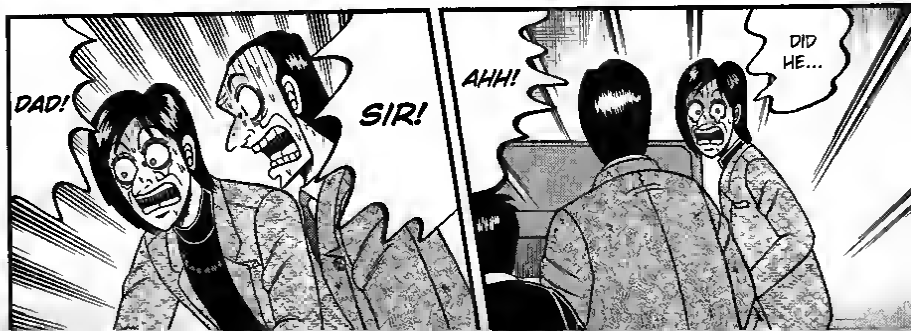
ボォ


AHH!
!!

KIJU-ROU!
DAD!
KIJU-ROU!
DAD!
FATHER!
LIGHTS!
TURN ON THE LIGHTS!
AHH...
AHH...
AHH...
AHH...

FATHER!
FATHER!
SO YOU'VE ALL MANAGED TO COME...
FATHER!
GRAMPS!
GRAND-PA!
UU...
FATHER!
SIR!
AHH!
DAAAD!

HUH?


DAD!
SIR!
AHH!
DID HE...

GRAND-PA!
GRAMPS?
FATHER!?
DAD!
.....
Oo
ARE YOU STILL THERE!?
GRAMPS?..
DAD!
DAD!
uu...

I'M A BLESSED MAN...
SIR!
WE...
WE DID IT!

YOU'RE ALIVE!
YOU...
H-HE'S ALIVE!

YOU'RE ALIVE!
YES!
HAHA
SO...
THANK GOD!
TAKA-MITSU.

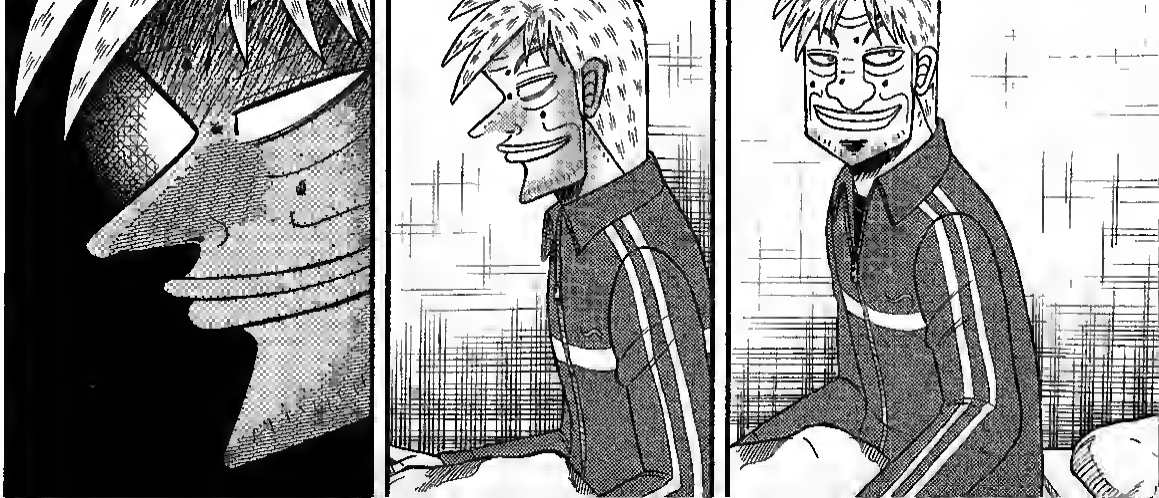
IT'S MARCH 24,
THE DATE?
HUH?
WHAT'S THE DATE?
THE 24TH, HUH
OF YEAR 20XX...

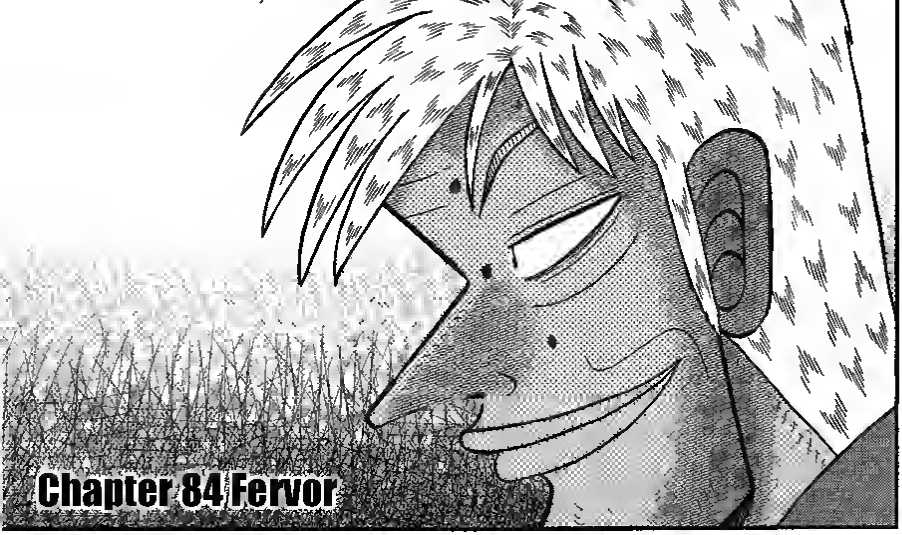
WERE MY RIDDLES REALLY SO SIMPLE TO SOLVE...?
THAT'S MUCH FASTER THAN I'D EXPECTED ...
HMM...

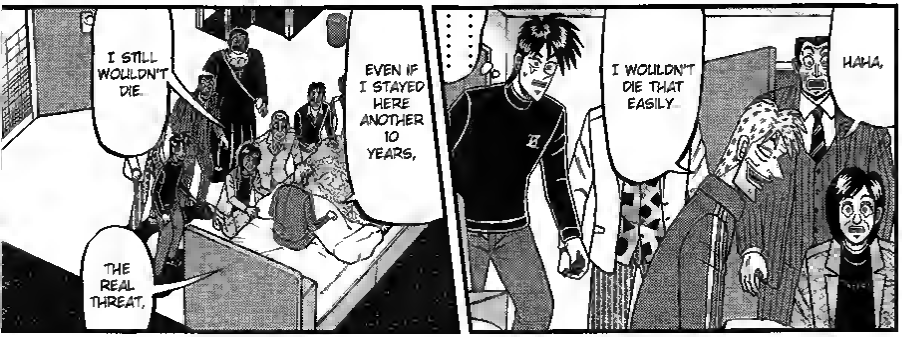
ARE YOU THE FELLOW THEY ASKED TO HELP SOLVE MY RIDDLES?

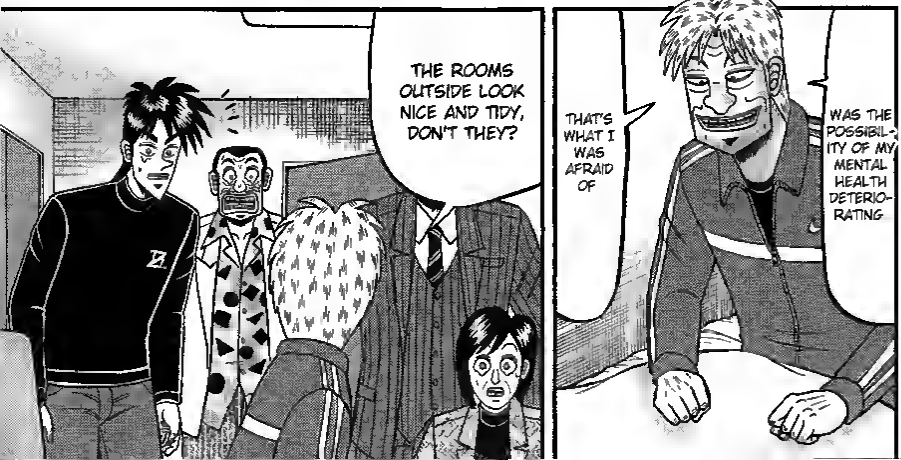
PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINT-ANCE, SIR.

I'M...
I'VE BEEN WAITING AND HOPING FOR THIS MOMENT FOR SO LONG...
MY NAME IS UKAI ZERO.
TO SEE THAT YOU SURVIVED!
I'M TRULY GLAD,




Chapter 84 Fervor


I STILL WOULDN'T DIE.
EVEN IF I STAYED HERE ANOTHER 10 YEARS,
THE REAL THREAT,
I WOULDN'T DIE THAT EASILY.
HAHA,


THE ROOMS OUTSIDE LOOK NICE AND TIDY, DON'T THEY?
THAT'S WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF
WAS THE POSSIBILITY OF MY MENTAL HEALTH DETERIORATING

THAT LIVING ROOM OUTSIDE AT ALL
I HAVEN'T USED,
FOR THE PAST 10 DAYS,
Y-YES
?

I WANTED A CHANGE OF PACE...
WHERE ALL MY OPTIONS WERE RESTRICTED,
CONFINED TO AN UNCOMFORTABLE LIFE LIKE THIS,
WHY?

EVEN FOR JUST A FEW HOURS A DAY, I COULD FEEL HAPPY.
THE FEW HOURS EACH DAY THAT I SPEND OUTSIDE THIS ROOM,
THIS WAY,
COULD FEEL NEW AND FREE!
BUT,
TO BE HONEST,
I WAS GETTING SICK AND TIRED OF THIS TOO...
HAHA.
SO IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT I, IN TURN...
YOU REALLY HELPED ME OUT, ZERO.

THANK YOU, ZERO!
THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART!

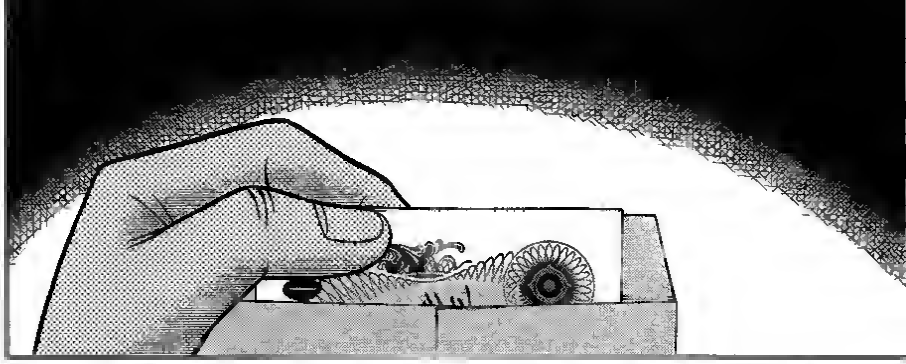
NOW THEN
HAHA
Y-YOU NEEDN'T-

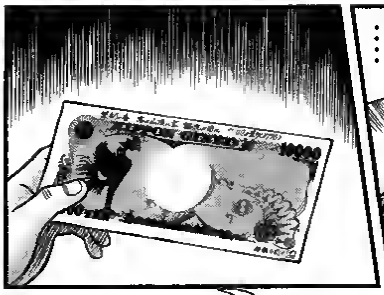
HUH?
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO SHOW YOU.
COULD YOU MOVE A LITTLE BACK?
HE WANTS TO SHOW SOME-THING?
COULD IT BE THERE'S MORE TREASURE HERE HE'S BEEN HIDING..?
W-WHA..?
AH..
HUH?
?
?
?
GOING TO TAKE THE TREASURE OUT RIGHT NOW...!?
IS HE...

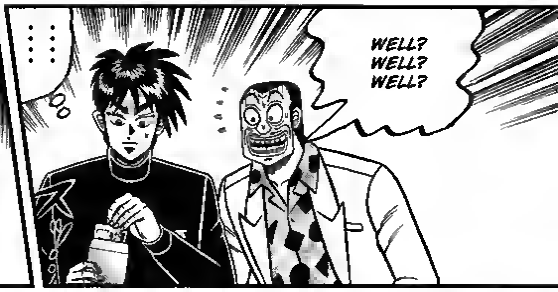
HA HA HA
WHAT DO YOU THINK? AMAZING, RIGHT?
I'VE BEEN PRACTICING!
WE FINALLY MANAGED TO RESCUE YOU,
PLEASE DON'T!
SO IF YOU WERE TO GET HURT...
NONONO!
I CAN EVEN DO A BACK-FLIP!
CARE TO SEE?

SO PLEASE GET OFF THE BED, SIR!
YOU'RE A BORING MAN, OKAJIMA.
THIS WHOLE JOURNEY MOOT!
THAT'D MAKE...
WHAT...
RIGHT, RIGHT.
I ALMOST FORGOT.
AH!
I SHOULD GIVE YOU YOUR REWARD.
AHH!

HERE.
YES! YES! YES! YES!
COME ON THEN, TAKE IT!
IT'S PROPER TO ACCEPT GIFTS IN CASES LIKE THESE.
DON'T BE STUPID! JUST ACCEPT IT!
NO, I DON'T REALLY N-
KIJUROU SURE KNOWS HOW TO TREAT PEOPLE RIGHT...!
SO... WHAT IS IT? A CHEQUE?

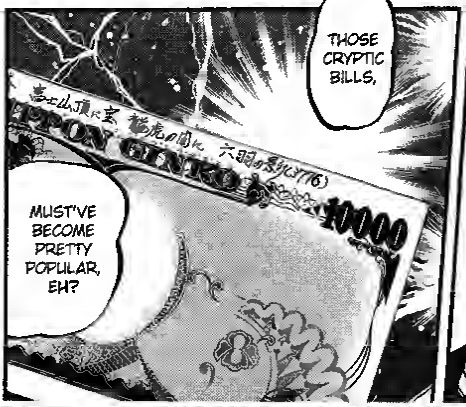




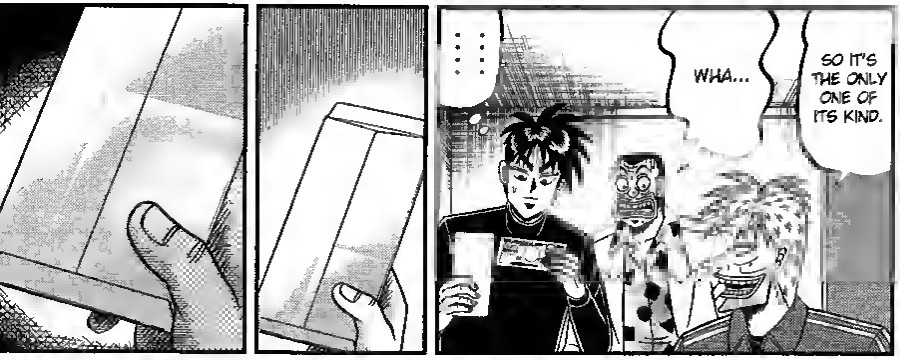

WELL?
WELL?
WELL?

THEN THAT MEANS MY PLAN MUST'VE WORKED...!
IF YOU'VE MANAGED TO REACH HERE,

HA HA HA
HUH?


THOSE CRYPTIC BILLS,
MUST'VE BECOME PRETTY POPULAR, EH?

IT CAME ABOUT AS AN ACCIDENT,
INSTEAD OF 3779, IT'S GOT 3776 WRITTEN ON IT!
THIS ONE'S A REAL RARE VERSION.


WHA...
SO IT'S THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND.

HAHA,
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE!
REALLY FINE WITH GIVING ME THIS?
ARE YOU...

BUT UHH...
YEAH, IT'S CERTAINLY RARE AND ALL,
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT!
I'M SURE IT'LL FETCH A HIGH PRICE IF YOU AUCTION IT OFF ON THE INTERNET.
DO AS YOU WISH WITH IT.
SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE...
SHOULDN'T A REWARD BE, LIKE...
HUH?
ALRIGHT,
LET'S GO!
スクッ…
TIME TO GO UP TO THE SURFACE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 3 YEARS!
WHA!

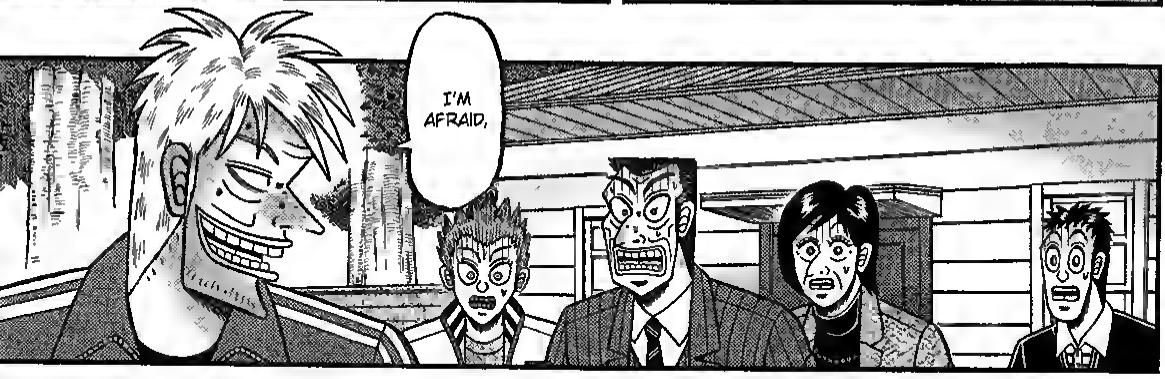
ざわ..
ざわ..
THEY'VE BEEN IN THERE FOR OVER 30 MINUTES ...
YOU REALLY THINK THE COMPANY FOUNDER,
IS IN THAT ROOM. .?
ギ...
フゥー

AH...
ガチャ
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HAVE YOU,
ALREADY FORGOTTEN MY FACE?
IT'S ME!
HOUJOU KIJUROU!
Houoh Corp. Founder and President Houjou Kijurou
UU...

うおおおっ!
THANK GOD!
WE FOUND HIM!
PRESIDENT KIJUROU!
MR. PRESI-DENT!
わっしょい
HIP HIP,
HURRAY!
わっしょい
HURRAY!
UU...
PRESIDENT KIJUROU!
MR. PRESI-DENT!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT!?

THE MOMENT WE'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR...!
I SEE.
HE CERTAINLY IS A CHARISMATIC MAN.
A PRESIDENT LOVED BY ALL OF HIS EMPLOYEES.
YES, YES, THANK YOU...
HAHA!
LET-
LET ME DOWN NOW...
HA...
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU ALL WORRY!

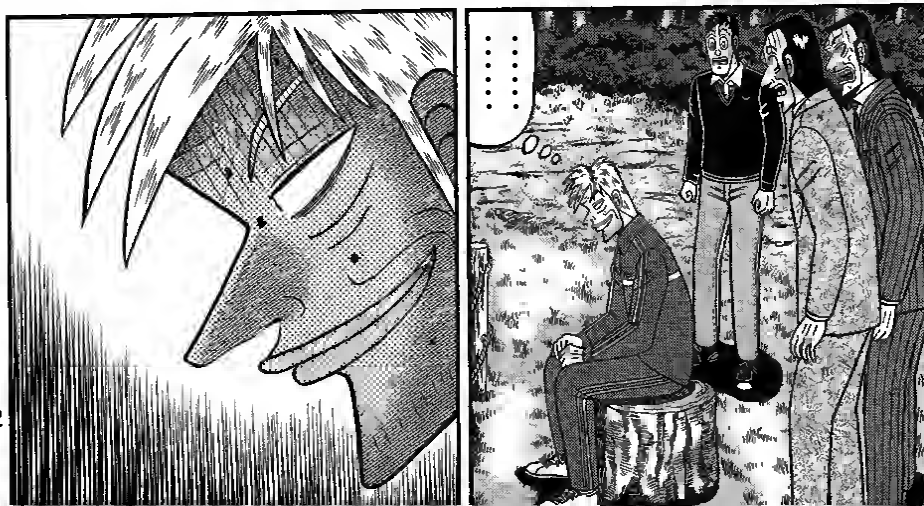
HA.
BUT,
BEFORE THAT,
HURRAY!
WE'LL HAVE A PARTY TONIGHT!


I'M AFRAID,

Y-YES, SIR!
YOU INCLUDED, OKAJIMA.
WHAT?
I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO GIVE ME A PRIVATE MOMENT WITH MY FAMILY.
WE'LL TALK AT THE TREASURE SWAMP.

Treasure Swamp
I'M SURE...
AND FOR THE PAST 3 YEARS,
SOMEONE LOCKED KIJUROU INSIDE THE TREASURE ROOM.
3 YEARS AGO,
HE'S BEEN WONDERING WHO IT WAS!
ZERO,
IS THIS WHAT I THINK IT IS?
YES...
IT'S TIME FOR THE STORY TO REACH ITS CONCLUSION!

THAT HE ALREADY HAS A GOOD IDEA.
IT SEEMS,
ON A DAY HE SHOULD BE JUST CELEBRAT-ING?
HE'S DOING THAT TODAY?
AHH!
HUH?
HE KNOWS...
AHH!
WHO IT WAS THAT LOCKED HIM UP...!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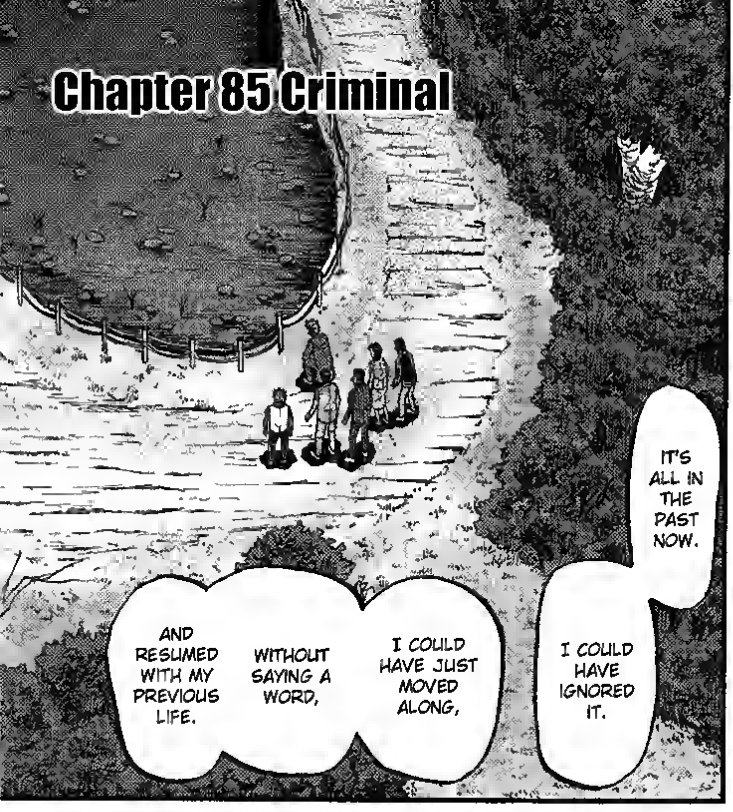
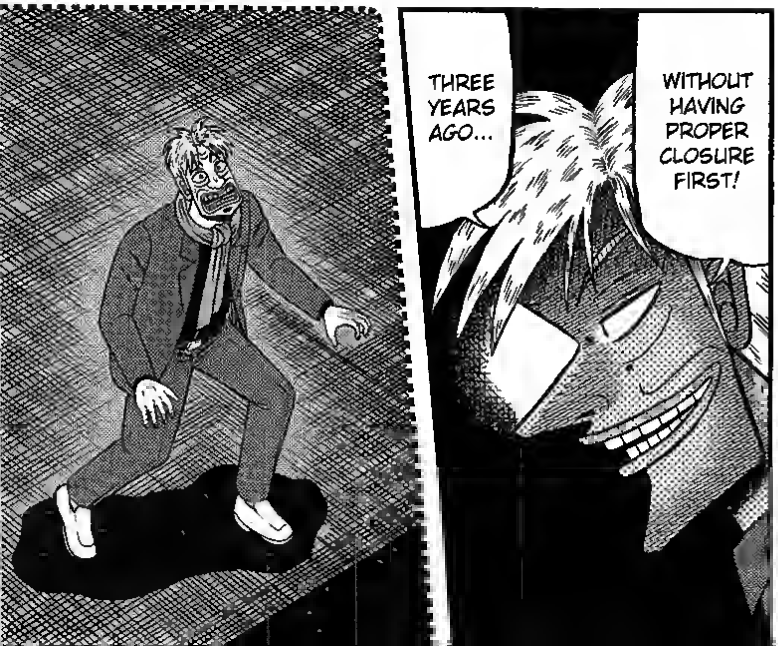
Chapter 85 Criminal


IT'S ALL IN THE PAST NOW.
I COULD HAVE IGNORED IT.
I COULD HAVE JUST MOVED ALONG,
WITHOUT SAYING A WORD,
AND RESUMED WITH MY PREVIOUS LIFE.

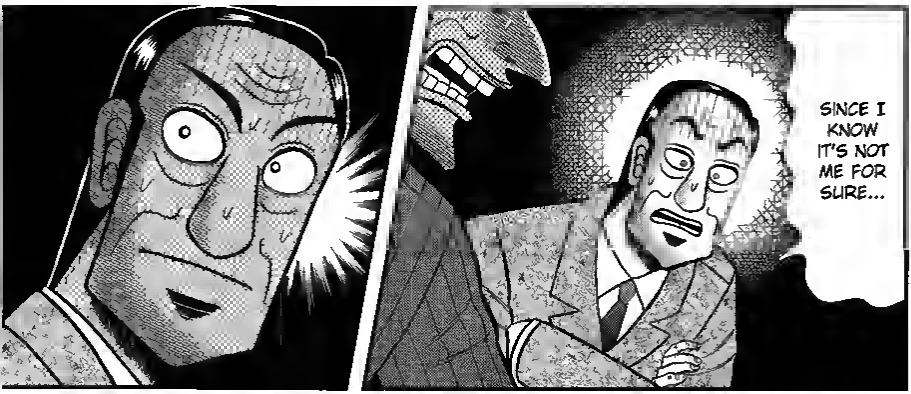


WHO WAS IT THAT LOCKED ME INSIDE...?
HUH?
WHO DO YOU THINK IT IS?
SAWA-KO,
WHA!
THE CRIMINAL IS ONE AMONG YOU...
ざわ...
EXCLUD-ING ME..
B-BUT IF I HAD TO GUESS,
IT'S TOO HARD FOR ME TO FIGURE OUT!
W-WHAT!? WHY WOULD YOU ASK ME...!?
HA...

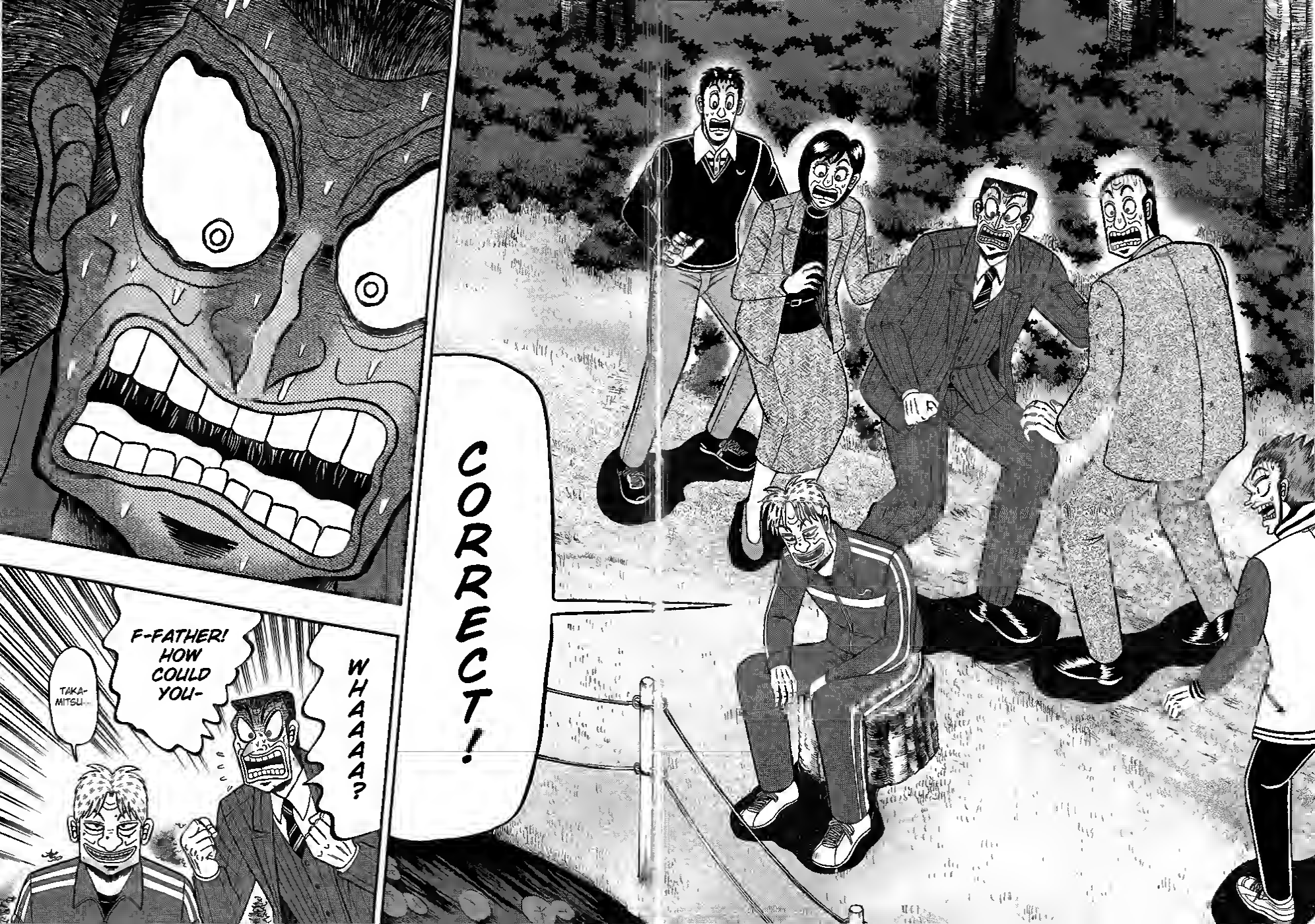
IT WOULD PROBABLY BE...

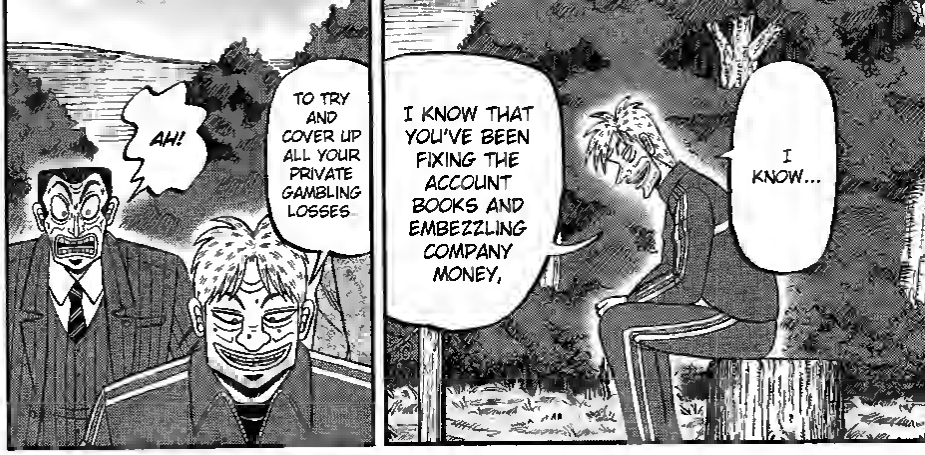
W-WHERE DO YOU GET OFF ACCUSING ME FOR!?
B-BUT!
ガーン
TAKA-MITSU?
OKA-JIMA

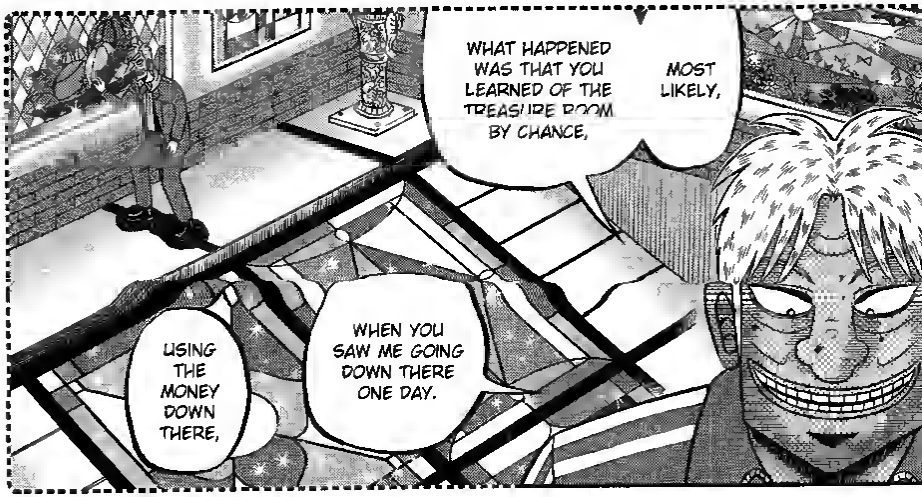
WELL ..
ME?
WHO DO YOU THINK IT IS?


SINCE I KNOW IT'S NOT ME FOR SURE...

YOU'RE ALL GANGING UP ON ME!
WHAT'S WITH ALL OF YOU!?
HAHA
WHAT!
PRESI-DENT TAKA-MITSU?

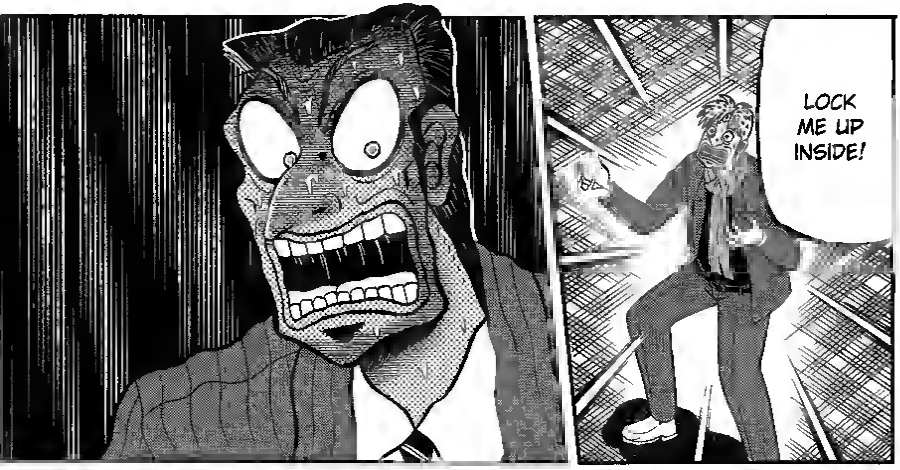

CORRECT!
WHAAAA?
F-FATHER! HOW COULD YOU-
TAKA-MITSU...

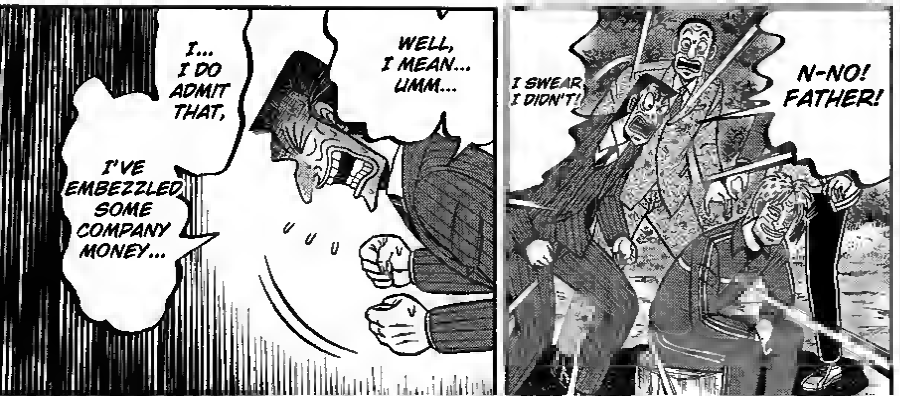

I KNOW...
I KNOW THAT YOU'VE BEEN FIXING THE ACCOUNT BOOKS AND EMBEZZLING COMPANY MONEY,
AH!
TO TRY AND COVER UP ALL YOUR PRIVATE GAMBLING LOSSES


MOST LIKELY,
WHAT HAPPENED WAS THAT YOU LEARNED OF THE TREASURE ROOM BY CHANCE,
WHEN YOU SAW ME GOING DOWN THERE ONE DAY.
USING THE MONEY DOWN THERE,

YOU COVERED UP YOUR LOSSES!
YOU WERE FINALLY BACK IN THE CLEAR...
BUT,
IT WASN'T ENOUGH. YOU NEEDED MORE...

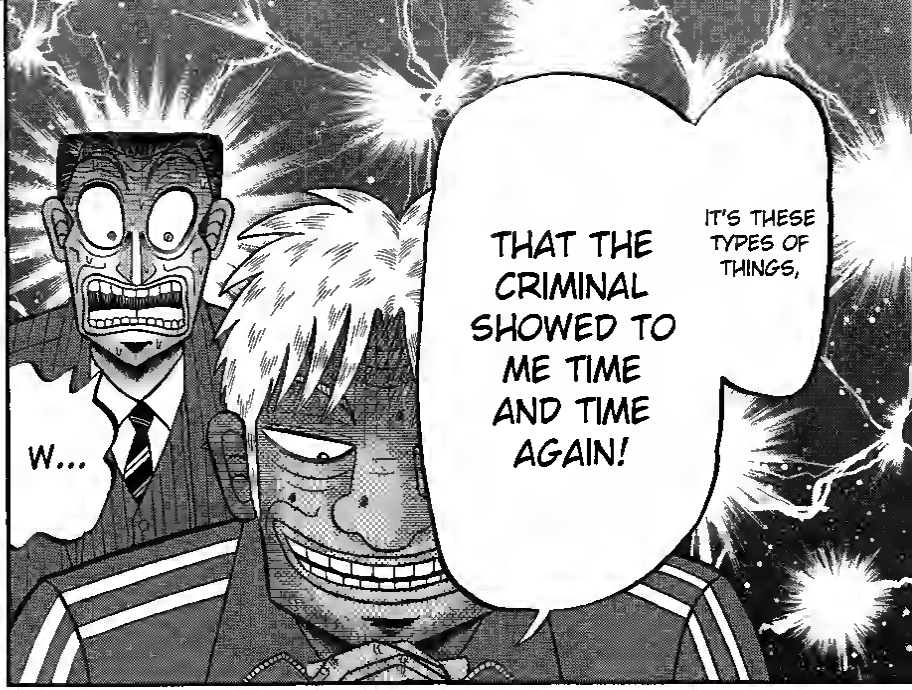
THE NEXT TIME I WENT THERE,
TO SECRETLY TAIL ME,
YOU WENT AHEAD WITH A PLAN,
AND...
EVEN-TUALLY,
YOU STARTED TAKING EVEN MORE AND MORE MONEY.


LOCK ME UP INSIDE!


I... I DO ADMIT THAT,
I'VE EMBEZZLED SOME COMPANY MONEY...
WELL, I MEAN... UMM...
I SWEAR, I DIDN'T!
N-NO! FATHER!

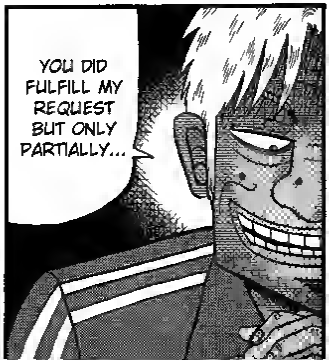
AND I CERTAINLY NEVER TRIED LOCKING YOU UP!
TAKA-MITSU
I HAD NO IDEA ABOUT THE TREASURE ROOM'S EXISTENCE!!
BUT THAT'S IT, I SWEAR!
YOU'RE THE ONLY POSSIBILITY.
IS IT BECAUSE I EMBEZ-ZLED COMPANY MONEY!?
WELL...
W-WHY!?
HUH?

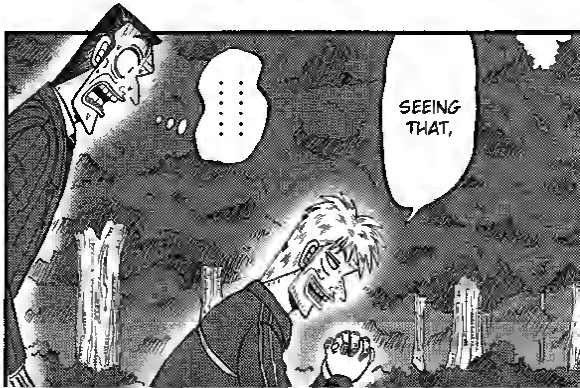
HUH?
IT'S BECAUSE OF THE PAST 3 YEARS!
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY,
THERE'S THAT AS WELL,
LEFT A DISTINCTIVE MARK!
AND CONSIDERATION,
YOUR SCHEMES,
IN OTHER WORDS,
THINGS THAT ONLY YOU COULD KNOW...
THAT OKAJIMA NOR ANY OF MY OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS DIDN'T KNOW..
THINGS ABOUT ME,


W...
THAT THE CRIMINAL SHOWED TO ME TIME AND TIME AGAIN!
IT'S THESE TYPES OF THINGS,

I REQUESTED IT BY WRITING A NOTE ON THE FOOD TRAY ONE DAY.
SINCE I'M QUITE FOND OF ONIROKU, THE KAGOSHIMA SWEET POTATO SHOCHU,

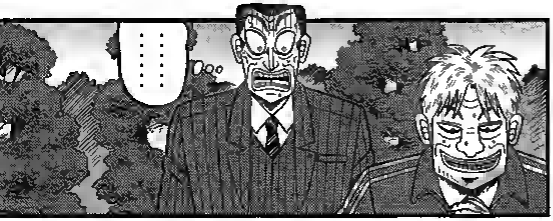
FOR EXAMPLE.
WHA?


YOU DID FULFILL MY REQUEST BUT ONLY PARTIALLY...


SEEING THAT,

YOU SEE, WHEN IT COMES TO ONIROKU,
WHITE KOUJI,
BLACK KOUJI,
AND PURPLE YAM,
ARE THE 3 VARIETIES OFFERED
鬼六
鬼六
鬼六

BLACK KOUJI IS MY FAVOURITE,
BUT SINCE I ONLY REQUESTED FOR "ONIROKU,"
IT'D LOOK BAD IF YOU JUST GAVE ME A BLACK KOUJI ONIROKU.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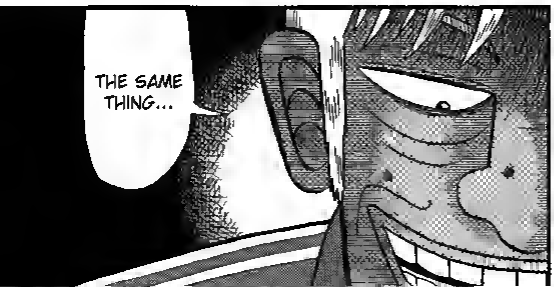
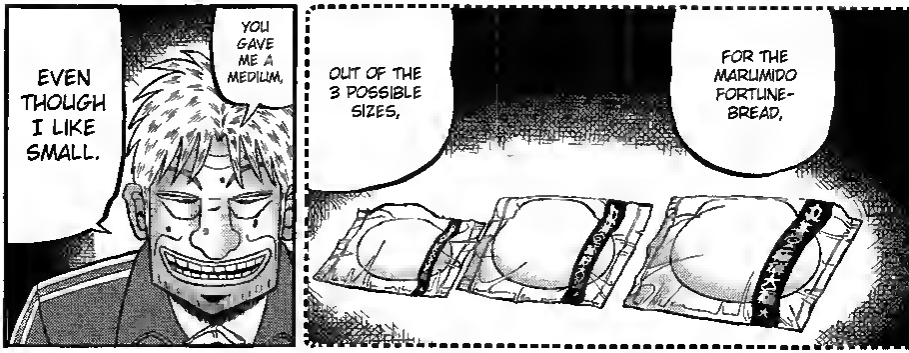
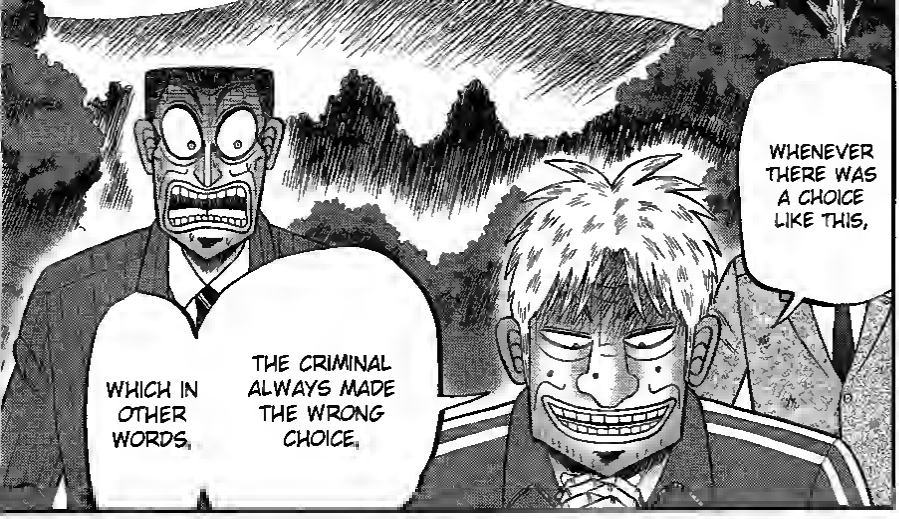
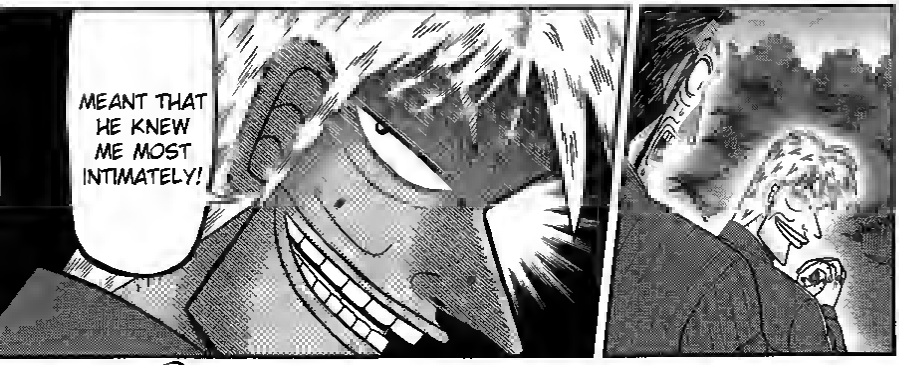

THE SAME THING…

SO YOU GAVE ME A COMPRO-MISE WITH A WHITE KOUJI INSTEAD!
鬼六

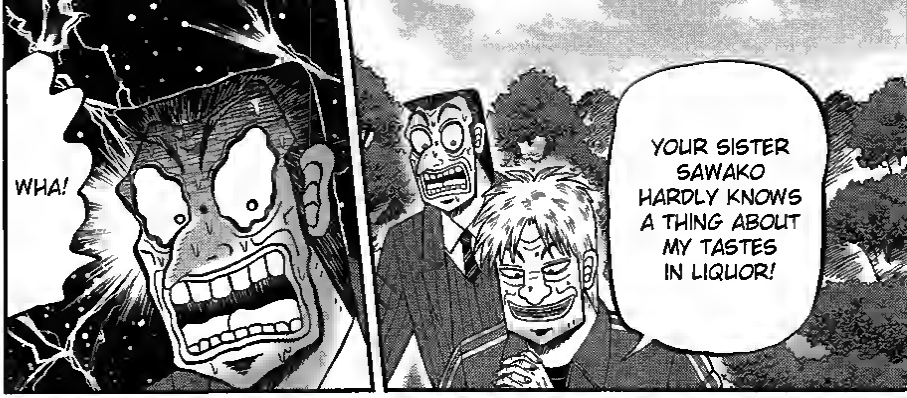
*VARIETIES DEPENDING ON ADDITIONAL ALCOHOL CONTENT AND RICE MILLING %

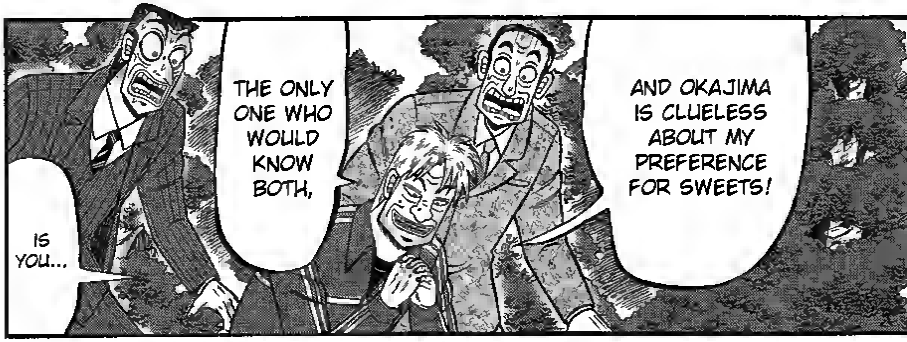


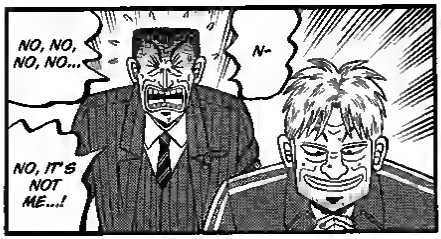

WHENEVER THERE WAS A CHOICE LIKE THIS,
THE CRIMINAL ALWAYS MADE THE WRONG CHOICE.
WHICH IN OTHER WORDS,


MEANT THAT HE KNEW ME MOST INTIMATELY!

I'M SURE SAWAKO OR OKAJIMA COULD JUST AS EASILY D-
I MEAN, I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE CAPABLE OF THAT!
ACTUALLY
T-THAT'S...
HE KNEW ALL OF MY TASTES!


WHA!
YOUR SISTER SAWAKO HARDLY KNOWS A THING ABOUT MY TASTES IN LIQUOR!


IS YOU...
THE ONLY ONE WHO WOULD KNOW BOTH,
AND OKAJIMA IS CLUELESS ABOUT MY PREFERENCE FOR SWEETS!

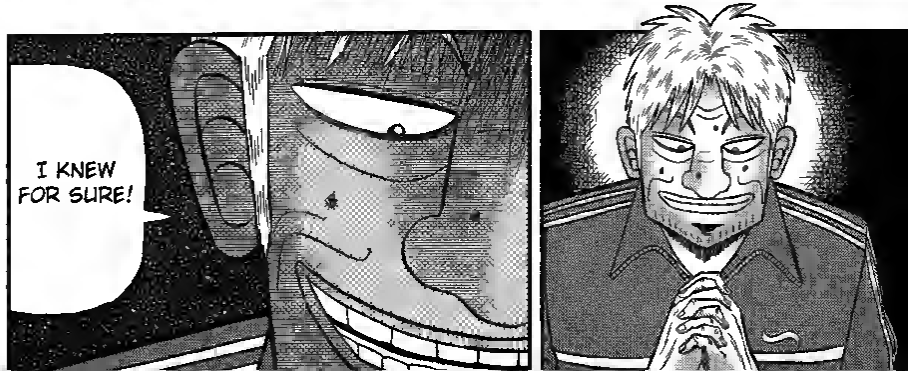

NO, NO, NO, NO...
N-
NO, IT'S NOT ME...!

IT CAN ONLY BE YOU, TAKAMITSU.

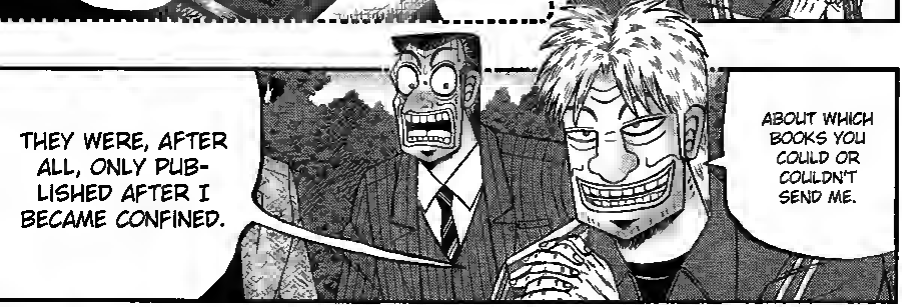
NOT ONLY THAT, THE WHOLE PROCESS OF READING MY MEMO AND THEN DECIDING WHAT TO GIVE ME...

IT'S ONLY YOU...
THEY'D NEVER GO THROUGH SO MUCH EFFORT THEY'D JUST SLIP ME WHATEVER FOODS THEY ALREADY KNEW I LIKED IF THEY WANTED TO.
IS SOMETHING SAWAKO OR OKAJIMA WOULD NEVER HAVE DONE!
WHA!?
ONLY A PERSON LIKE YOU WHO HAS A FUSSY TENDENCY ABOUT THE NITTY-GRITTY DETAILS THAT WOULD BOTHER TO DO SUCH A THING...
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL!
IT WAS IN ANOTHER MATTER THAT CEMENTED MY SUSPICIONS
YES,
THAT'S JUST YOU THEORIZING BASED ON YOUR INTUITION!
B-BUT YOU HAVE NO PROOF FOR THAT!

BOOKS!
HUH?
NEW BOOKS, TO BE PRECISE!
WHEN I GOT THESE NEWLY PUBLISHED BOOKS,
DURING MY TIME AS A PRISONER,


I KNEW FOR SURE!

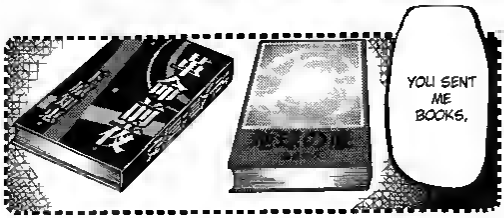
HUH!?
THEY WERE RIGHT UP MY ALLEY,
WHICH MEANT THE CRIMINAL KNEW WELL OF MY TASTES IN BOOKS!
YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T WORRY AT ALL,


ABOUT WHICH BOOKS YOU COULD OR COULDN'T SEND ME.
THEY WERE, AFTER ALL, ONLY PUBLISHED AFTER I BECAME CONFINED.

AND SO YOU THOUGHT,
SENDING ME ANY NEW BOOKS WOULD DO.
UNLIKE THE TIMES WITH THE SAKE OR FOOD, I COULDN'T HAVE LIKED THESE BOOKS BEFOREHAND.
IN SHORT,
THERE WAS NO SAFE OR DANGEROUS CHOICE.

FOR THE FIRST TIME,
BUT IN DOING SO,
YOU THOUGHT THERE WAS NO NEED TO PURPOSELY SEND ME BORING BOOKS.
SINCE THAT WAS THE CASE,

YOU REVEALED YOUR TRUE IDENTITY!


YOU SENT ME BOOKS,

LIVING UNDER-GROUND FOR SO LONG,
KNOWING THAT I'D BE GROWING WEARY,

ABOUT SUBJECTS THAT YOU AND I HAD FUN DISCUSSING LONG AGO,
OR TOPICS THAT I HAD ONCE EXPRESSED SOME SORT OF INTEREST IN...

AHH!
THESE WERE THE TYPE OF BOOKS YOU SENT ME.
AS I READ THESE BOOKS,
I HONESTLY FELT,
THAT I WAS HAVING A CONVER-SATION WITH YOU...!
AND THAT,
YOU WERE SITTING RIGHT NEXT TO ME.
SO YOU SEE...

AHH!
IT CAN ONLY BE YOU, TAKAMITSU...!
UUU...

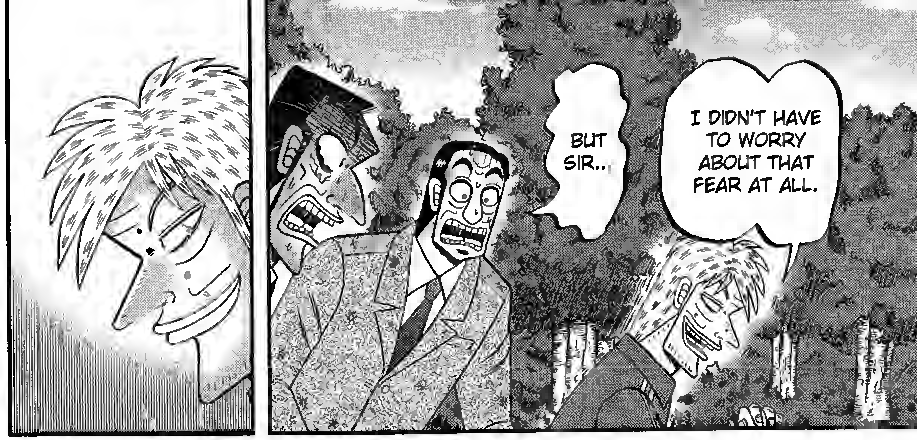
TAKAMITSU... YOU RE THE ONLY POSSIBILITY...
Chapter 86 Anxiety
GUH!
HOW COULD YOU!?
UU...
NO!

YOU CAN'T JUST GET AWAY WITH THIS!
A SERIOUS CRIME!
THIS IS...
NO, YOU'RE WRONG... I DIDN'T...

WHAT MATTERS IS THAT YOU CONFINED HIM FOR 3 WHOLE YEARS!
THE FACT THAT YOUR FATHER IS NOW ALIVE AND WELL IS IRRELEVENT!

YOU HAD YOUR OWN FATHER LIVE IN SUCH MADDENING ANXIETY FOR YEARS AND YEARS!
NOT KNOWING WHEN HIS CAPTOR MIGHT CHANGE HIS MIND AND CUT OFF THE FOOD AND WATER!
OKA-JIMA...
YOU HAD HIM STANDING ON THE EDGE CONSTANTLY!
AND IT WASN'T JUST ANY SIMPLE CONFINEMENT EITHER!

THAT'S NOT TRUE...!
HUH?
TAKA-MITSU.
NEVER ONCE THOUGHT ABOUT CUTTING OFF MY FOOD AND WATER!


I DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT FEAR AT ALL.
BUT SIR..

OUR RELATIONSHIP AS FATHER AND SON WASN'T COLD ENOUGH TO ALLOW SUCH A THING...

WILL YOU PLEASE...
OKAJIMA,
FATHER

AH!
FORGIVE THIS FOOL...?
UUU!
WHA.
PLEASE, OKAJIMA
HE'S MY ONLY SON
HE MIGHT BE UNDEPENDABLE AT TIMES BUT... HE'S STILL MY LONE HOPE...!
IT WAS THE SAME BACK THEN TOO...

TAKA-
MITSU
WAS MY
ONLY
HOPE
BACK
THEN!
ズブ…ズブ…ズブ…

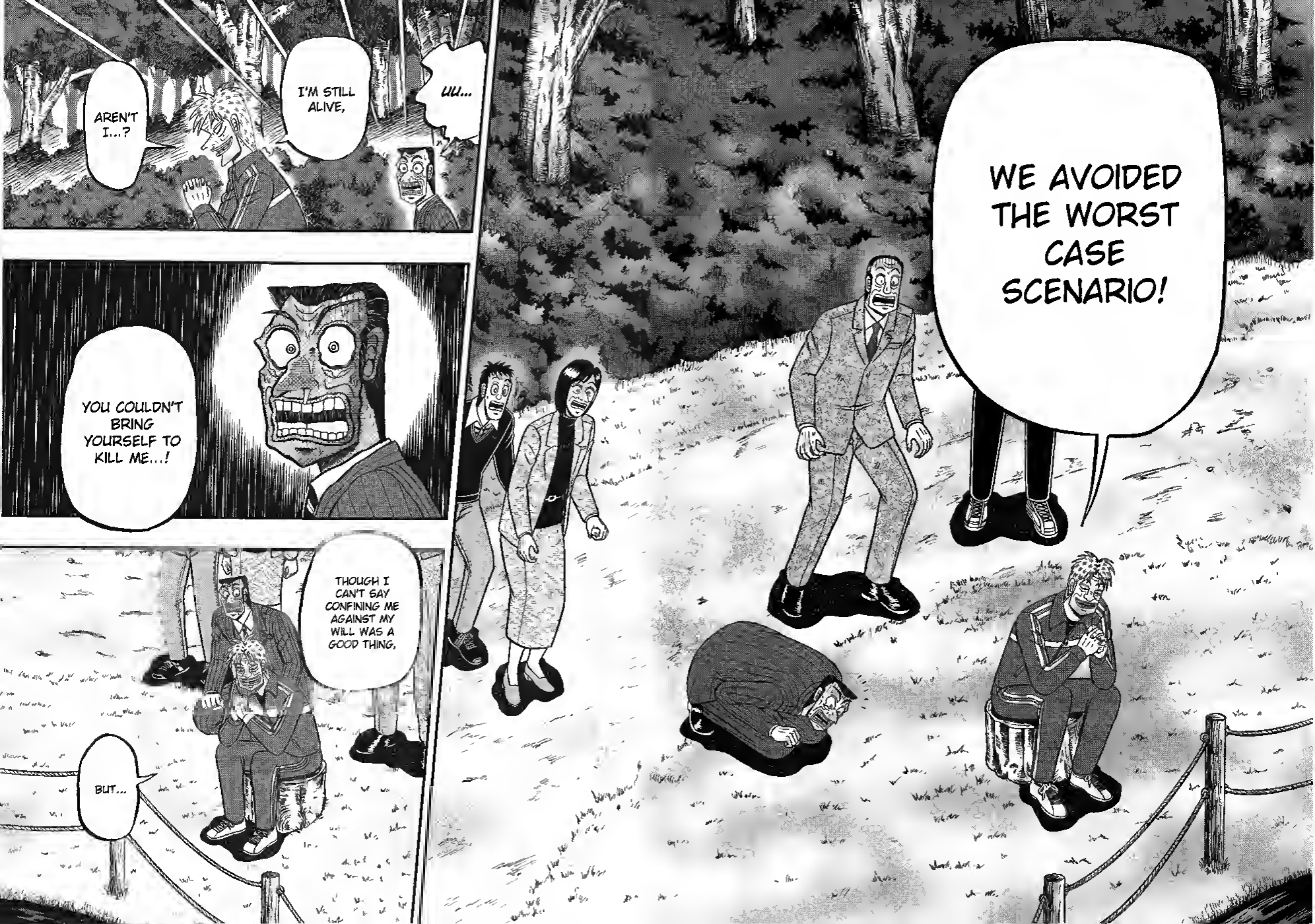
SAWAKO WAS JUST A LITTLE GIRL,
SO MY SON WAS ENTIRELY ON HIS OWN.
AND HE TRIED DESPERATELY,
FIGHTING AGAINST FEAR AND TIME,
TO RESCUE ME!
HE SAVED ME,
FROM THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO!

FATHER...
CAME TO MY RESCUE!
UUU!
GUH!
ドガッ!!

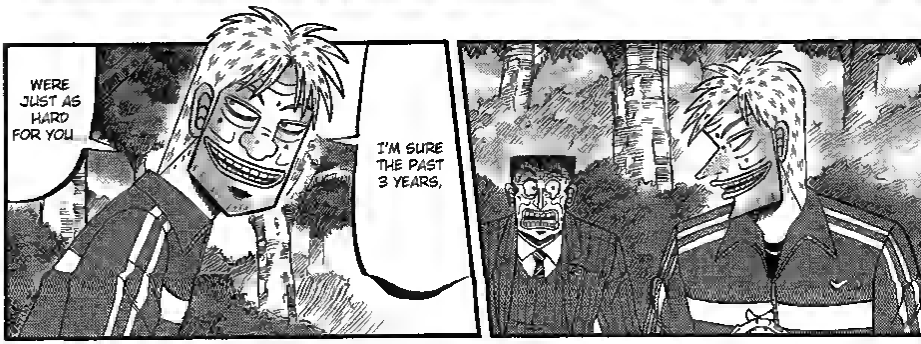
MY YOUNG BOY TAKAMITSU, THEN ONLY 14,

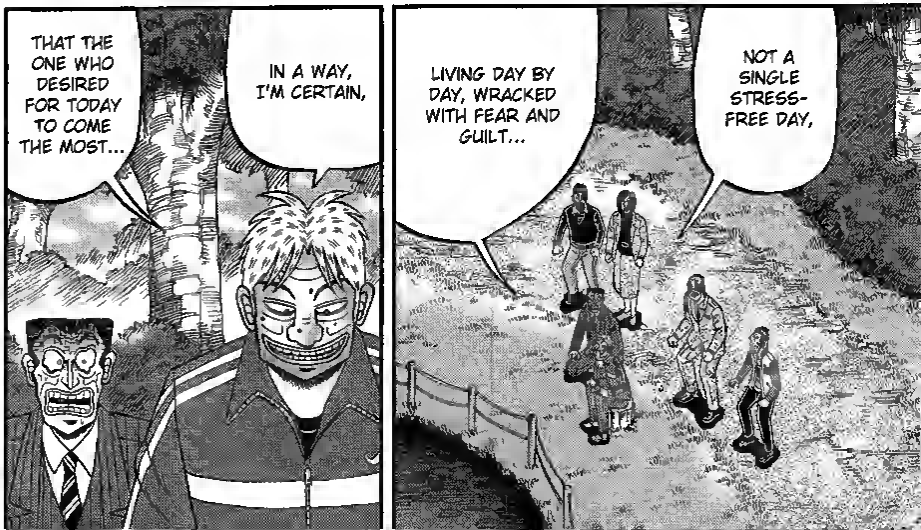
FATHER!
I WAS SO TERRI-FIED,
ABOUT BEING DISMISSED IF MY EMBEZZLE-MENT CAME TO LIGHT...
AND...
ボロ!
ボロ!
THERE WAS JUST SO MUCH MONEY...
SO MUCH MONEY I STILL NEEDED TO PAY BACK...
THE DEVIL-
THE DEVIL CAME OVER ME...
.....
IT'S FINE, TAKA-MITSU...

I'M SO SORRY!
I'M SORRY!


AREN'T I...?
I'M STILL ALIVE,
UU...
YOU COULDN'T BRING YOURSELF TO KILL ME...!
THOUGH I CAN'T SAY CONFINING ME AGAINST MY WILL WAS A GOOD THING,
BUT...
WE AVOIDED THE WORST CASE SCENARIO!

THIS MUCH IS NOTHING!
WE CAN OVER-COME IT...!


WERE JUST AS HARD FOR YOU.
I'M SURE THE PAST 3 YEARS,


THAT THE ONE WHO DESIRED FOR TODAY TO COME THE MOST...
IN A WAY, I'M CERTAIN,
LIVING DAY BY DAY, WRACKED WITH FEAR AND GUILT...
NOT A SINGLE STRESS-FREE DAY,

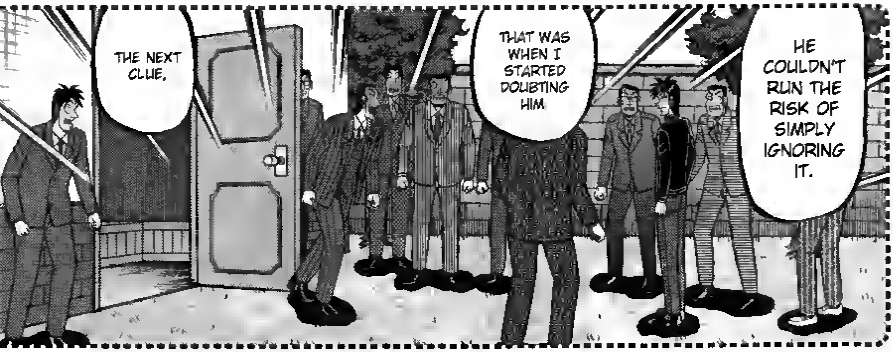
WAS YOU YOUR-SELF!
ポロ…
ポロ…
ポロ…
ううっ…
FATHER!
ポロ…
ポロ…
ポロ…
I'M SORRY!
I'M SO SORRY!
ううっ…
……
OKA-JIMA…

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT,
THIS FOOLISH SON OF MINE...!
GUH!
Y-
YES, SIR!
IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL,
I HAVE NO COM-PLAINTS TO SAY!
HAHA.
YES, I KNEW YOU'D COME AROUND.
THAT'S THE OKAJIMA I KNOW!

ZERO...
YES.
THAT THE ONE WHO LOCKED KIJUROU UP IS...
D-DOES THAT MEAN,
SEEMS LIKE THE PRESIDENT IS ON HIS KNEES...
IT WAS PRESIDENT TAKAMITSU!
THAT HE WAS THE ONE.
I ACTUALLY BEGAN TO THINK,
YES.
SERI-OUSLY?
WHAT!

FROM A WHILE BACK AS WELL...
HUH!?
YOU THOUGHT SO TOO!?
REALLY!? WHY?
MY SUSPICIONS WERE FIRST RAISED,
WHEN I STATED THAT THE TREASURE ROOM
WAS IN THE STAINED GLASS ROOM!
UP UNTIL THEN,
HUH?
THE PRESIDENT AND HIS MEN INSIDE REFUSED TO COME OUT FROM THE INCENSE ROOM,
NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE OUTSIDE SAID

EVEN IF MY CLAIM HAD NO EVIDENCE BEHIND IT,
BUT THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF CAME OUT TO RESPOND AFTER MY STATEMENT.


THE NEXT CLUE,
THAT WAS WHEN I STARTED DOUBTING HIM.
HE COULDN'T RUN THE RISK OF SIMPLY IGNORING IT.

SPECIFI-CALLY,
THE MOMENT WHEN THE FLOOR BEGAN OPENING UP!
ゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴ

WAS WHEN WE ALL WENT INSIDE THE STAINED GLASS ROOM...
THAT SEEMED TO POINT THE FINGER AT HIM,

I YELLED, "GET DOWN!"
WHEN EVERYONE WAS STARTLED,

BACK THEN,

FOR PRESIDENT TAKAMITSU, WHO OBVIOUSLY KNEW THE FLOOR WOULD OPEN UP.
EXCEPT,
EVERYONE IMMEDIATELY GOT DOWN ON ALL FOURS WHEN I SAID THAT,
ゴゴ‥
ゴゴゴ‥

TO WHERE I WAS STANDING!

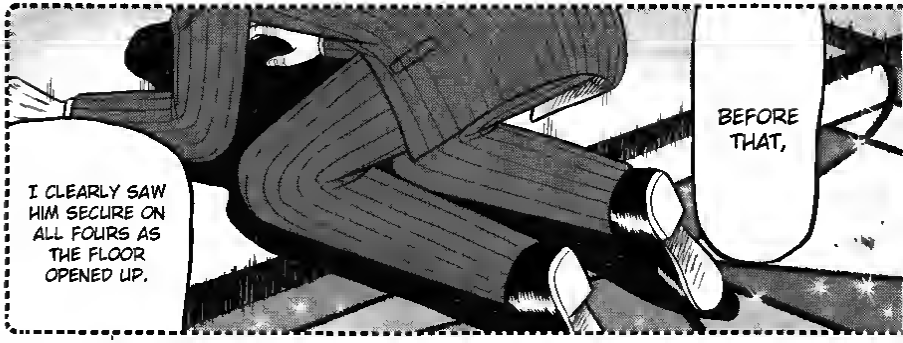
LIKE THE REST OF YOU, HE QUICKLY CRAWLED,
INSTEAD OF STAYING STILL,
ゴゴ‥

BUT...
HE DID!?
AHH!

BUT THAT WAS ALL. THERE WAS NOTHING PROVING HIS GUILT DEFINITIVELY!
MADE HIM LOOK SUSPI-CIOUS.
THESE TWO INSTANCES,
THAT MOVED THE LEAST.
WHAT TRULY GAVE TAKAMITSU AWAY,
IT'S CERTAINLY POSSIBLE THAT HE JUST INSTINCTIVELY MOVED TO THE PART OF THE FLOOR,
THE PRESI-DENT CAME FALLING DOWN TOO!
HUH?
WHEN THE REST OF YOU WERE EITHER TUMBLING OR SLIDING DOWN BELOW,
WAS SHORTLY AFTER,
THAT PROVED HIS GUILT.
I REMEMBER THAT!
A-AHH!

THERE WAS NO REASON WHY HE SHOULD COME FALLING DOWN.
THOUGH I DIDN'T SEE THE EXACT MOMENT WHEN HE BEGAN HIS FALL,

YES.
IT DID?

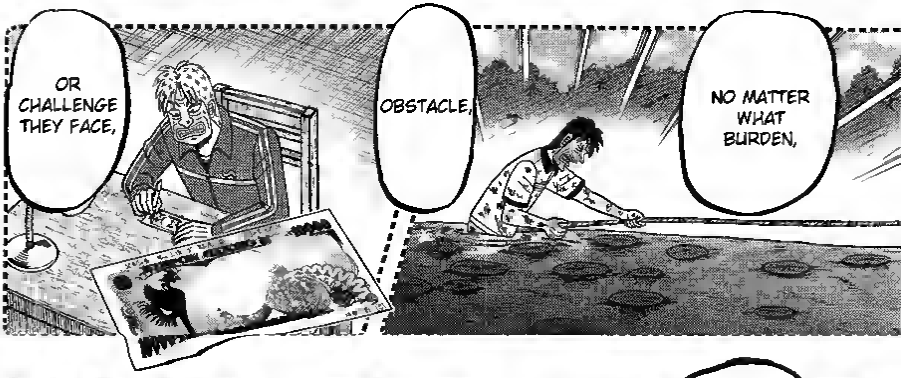

I CLEARLY SAW HIM SECURE ON ALL FOURS AS THE FLOOR OPENED UP.
BEFORE THAT,

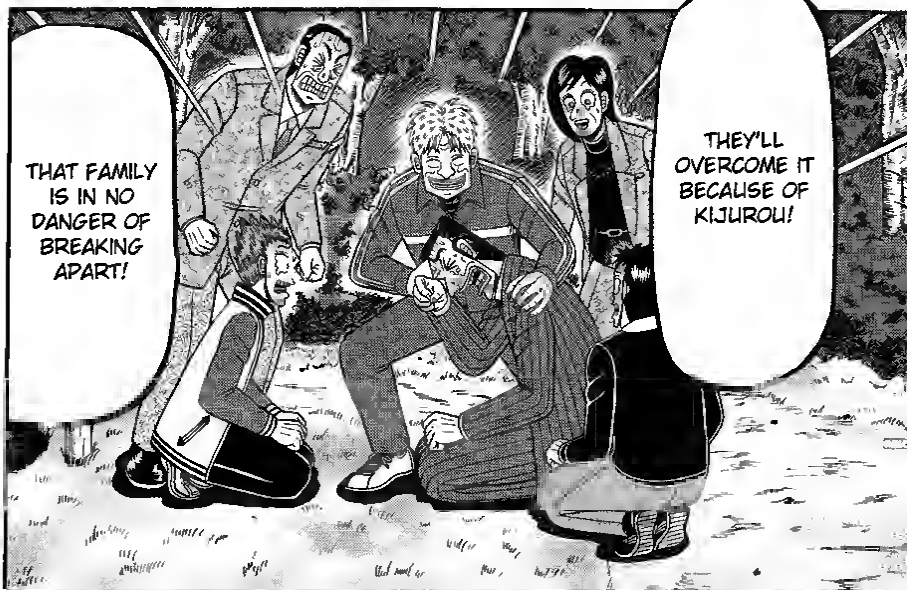
AND,
HE MUST'VE REALIZED IT'D LOOK SUSPICIOUS IF HE WERE THE ONLY ONE THAT DIDN'T TUMBLE DOWN.
IT WAS CLEARLY DONE ON PURPOSE!
THAT WAS HOW,

FROM A STABLE POSITION LIKE THAT!
THERE WAS NO REASON WHY HE SHOULD SUDDENLY FALL,

I REALIZED THAT PRESIDENT TAKAMITSU WAS THE CRIMINAL!
I SEE.
THAT MAKES SENSE.
!
OHH.
.....
.....
DON'T WORRY
WILL HAPPEN TO THAT FAMILY NOW?
WHAT DO YOU THINK,
IT'S STILL A SHOCK KNOWING THAT IT WAS HIS OWN SON THAT LOCKED HIM UP.

KIJUROU!
BECAUSE THEY STILL HAVE,
WHA?
THEY WON'T BREAK APART!


OR CHALLENGE THEY FACE,
OBSTACLE,
NO MATTER WHAT BURDEN,

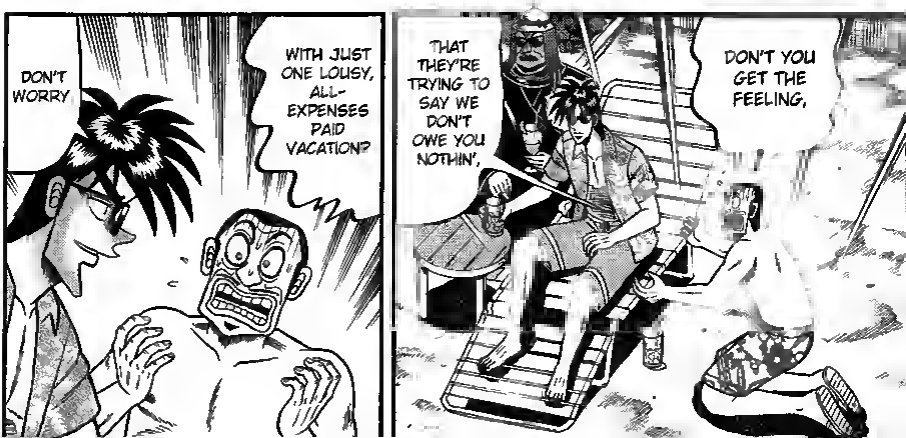

THAT FAMILY IS IN NO DANGER OF BREAKING APART!
THEY'LL OVERCOME IT BECAUSE OF KIJUROU!

Chapter 87 Reward

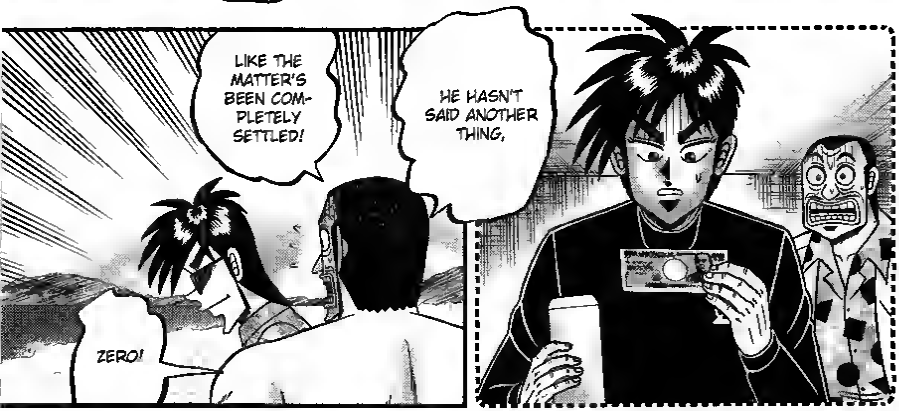
ザザザ…
ザザ…
ザザザ…
ザザ…
UHH...
……
SO WHY ARE WE HERE IN HAWAII?
HAHA
THE HOUJO FAMILY WANTED A SPECIAL VACATION TO COMMEMORATE KIJUROU'S RESCUE,
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE INTRUDING.
WHAT'S TO BE UPSET ABOUT?
IT'S ONLY PROPER MANNERS TO ACCEPT SUCH A REQUEST
AND THEY INVITED US AS THE GUESTS OF HONOUR.
YEAH, BUT...

I MEAN, I'M THANKFUL FOR THEIR INVITATION AND ALL,
BUT I GET THE FEELING...
THAT THEY'RE TRYING TO PULL A FAST ONE ON US!
LIKE...

THE REWARD!
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO OUR REWARD FOR SAVING KIJUROU!?

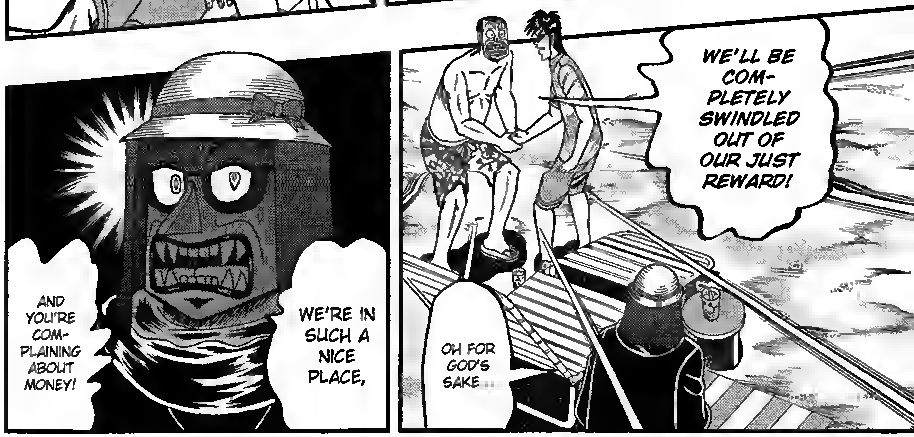

DON'T YOU GET THE FEELING,
THAT THEY'RE TRYING TO SAY WE DON'T OWE YOU NOTHIN',
WITH JUST ONE LOUSY, ALL-EXPENSES PAID VACATION?
DON'T WORRY

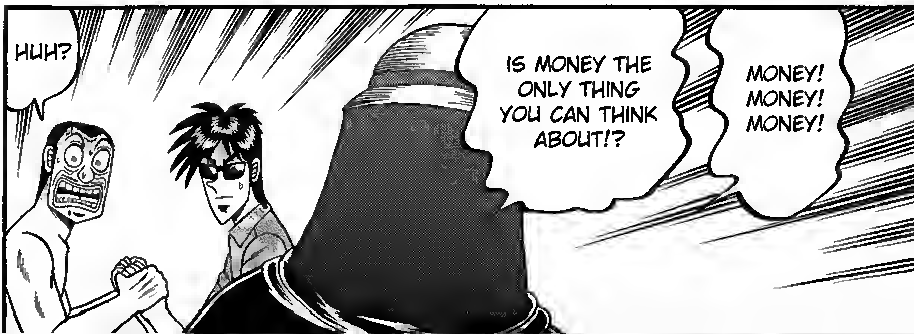
DID YOU ALREADY FORGET THAT WE WERE REWARDED,
SOON AFTER THE RESCUE?
NO, THAT'S EXACTLY IT!
HE HANDS US LIKE, ONE FREAKING 10,000 YEN BILL LIKE IT'S SOLID GOLD,
AND ONCE YOU ACCEPTED IT,


HE HASN'T SAID ANOTHER THING,
LIKE THE MATTER'S BEEN COMPLETELY SETTLED!
ZERO!

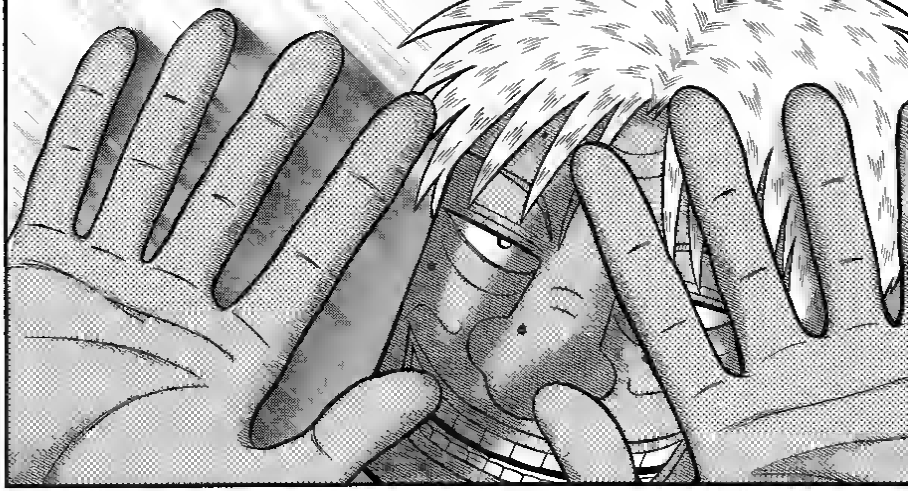
DON'T YOU THINK HE'S TRYING TO PULL A FAST ONE ON US!?
DON'T YOU THINK WE OUGHT TO SAY SOMETHING AND GET THIS STRAIGHTENED OUT!?
WELL...

COME ON THEN! LET'S GO!
IF WE JUST SIT HERE,
EXACTLY!
ABOUT THAT MATTER.
TO TALK TO KIJUROU,
I HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN WANTING,

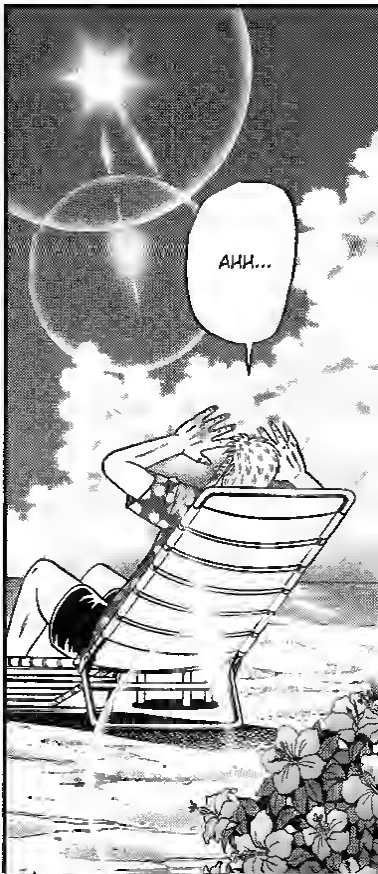

AND YOU'RE COMPLAINING ABOUT MONEY!
WE'RE IN SUCH A NICE PLACE,
OH FOR GOD'S SAKE...
WE'LL BE COMPLETELY SWINDLED OUT OF OUR JUST REWARD!


HUH?
IS MONEY THE ONLY THING YOU CAN THINK ABOUT!?
MONEY! MONEY! MONEY!

WHAT THE HELL IS UP WITH YOUR GET-UP!? IT'S THE MIDDLE OF FREAKIN' SUMMER!
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE TRYING TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THE SUN OR WHATEVER,
WELL, YEAH!?
TALK ABOUT A SOULLESS HUSK OF A MAN!
A BEE-KEEPER!? FINE!
THANKS TO YOU, I CAN'T EVEN GET MY GAME ON WITH THE BEACH BABES HERE!
BUT TO ME, YOU LOOK LIKE A RETARDED BEE-KEEPER!
BUT!
C'MON, ZERO!
BEFORE THAT, WE GOTTA SETTLE THE MONEY-ISSUE!
THIS IS AMERICA! I WANT MY BLONDE CHICKS IN BIKINI!!
ALL THE BETTER TO PROTECT MYSELF FROM THE INSECTS THAT SWARM MY PRECIOUS ZERO!



ALLOW ME TO POUR YOU A DRINK, SIR.
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL SUNNY DAY.


AHH...

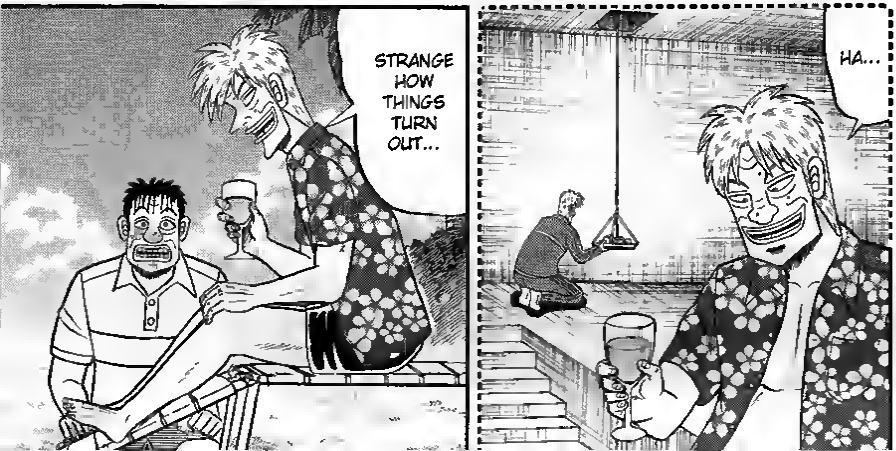
シュワ・
シュワ・
シュワ・

トク
トク・
トク・

YOU KNOW...
チビ・

I SWEAR I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING MORE...
I WAS ONLY DOING WHAT I WAS ORDERED TO DO...
O-OH NO, NO, NOT AT ALL!
THANK YOU.
I REALLY OUGHT TO THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF ME THE PAST 3 YEARS.

THREE TIMES A DAY.
AND DELIVER IT DOWN-STAIRS.
AND I HARDLY DID ANYTHING OTHER THAN COOK WHATEVER I COULD.


STRANGE HOW THINGS TURN OUT...
HA...

TO THINK,
THAT THE SECRET HATCH I MADE,
TO DEPOSIT MONEY AND OTHER VALUABLES WITHOUT HAVING TO OPEN UP THE ENTIRE FLOOR,
WOULD BECOME
MY CRITICAL LIFE-LINE,
THROUGH WHICH I WOULD GET MY FOOD AND WATER FROM FOR 3 YEARS!
MM! THESE FRESH VEGETABLES ARE GREAT!
YOUR SERVANT'S COOKING WAS PRETTY GOOD,
BUT IT WAS HARD TO GET ANY FRESH VEGETABLES, YOU KNOW...
M-MY APOLOGIES, SIR!

I'M JUST TEASING.
NO HARD FEELINGS.
.....
HAHA,
S-SORRY, FATHER..
FOR THE MONEY, RIGHT?
YOU FIRST WENT OUT ON THE TREASURE HUNT,
HUH?
SO WHEN DID YOU REALIZE YOUR PLAN WAS IN JEOPARDY?
AT THE VERY END, OF COURSE!
AH...
WAS THE SAME ROOM THAT YOU HAD LOCKED ME UP INSIDE?
SO WHEN DID YOU REALIZE THAT THE ROOM HINTED BY MY CRYPTIC MESSAGES,
Y-YES.
YOU HOPED THAT THERE WAS ANOTHER ROOM THAT WAS MY REAL TREASURE ROOM, DIDN'T YOU?

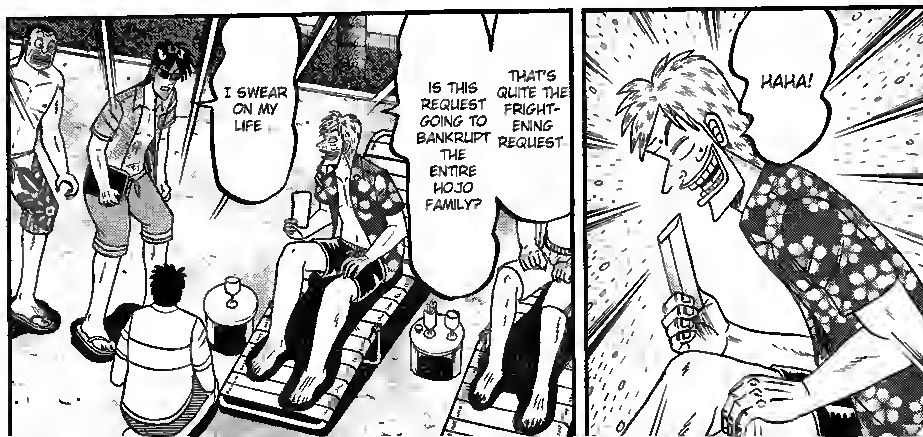
HAHA,
SO THE GENIUS HAS COME!
IS WHAT HE SAID TRUE?
YES.
WHILE I WAS DESPERATELY HOPING THERE'D BE ANOTHER ROOM IN THE INCENSE ROOM,
OH?
WHEN ZERO DECLARED THAT YOUR MESSAGE ACTUALLY POINTED TO THE STAINED GLASS ROOM INSTEAD...

RIGHT, ZERO?
I SUPPOSE HE WOULD BE,
KIJUROU.
HAHA,
STUNNED BEYOND WORDS!
I WAS COM-PLETELY,
I WANT TO GIVE THIS BACK.
WHA?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HM...

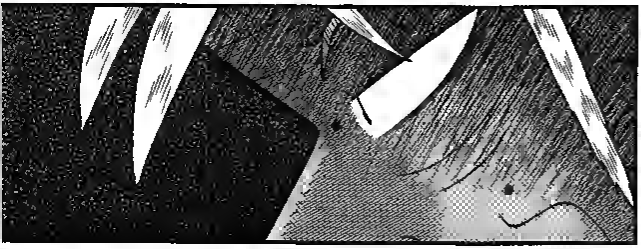
IS THIS MUCH,
NOT ENOUGH FOR YOU?
A-ARE YOU KIDDING ME!?
COULD YOU QUIT PLAYIN' DUMB!?
LET'S BE REAL NOW!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW HARD WE WORKED AND HOW CRITICAL WE WERE,
TO YOUR RESCUE...?
SUE-ZAKI.
CALM DOWN.
AH-

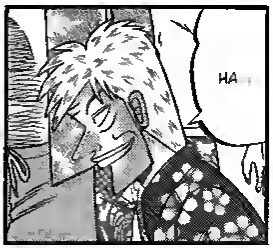
KIJUROU
SORRY, I COULDN'T HELP IT...
RIGHT.
R-
JUST CALM DOWN.
THIS MATTER TO BE SETTLED THE WAY YOU'VE CHOSEN!
DON'T WANT,
I- NO, WE...
YOU SEE,
EXACTLY!
HM?
AT THAT TIME...
I HAVE A FEELING I'LL BE INVOLVED IN THE GAMBLE OF A LIFETIME.
IN THE NEAR FUTURE...

I WANT YOU TO BACK ME!
TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITIES!
WHA?
.....
PLEASE, SIR!


I SWEAR ON MY LIFE
IS THIS REQUEST GOING TO BANKRUPT THE ENTIRE HOJO FAMILY?
THAT'S QUITE THE FRIGHT-ENING REQUEST
HAHA!

THAT I'LL WIN!




HA

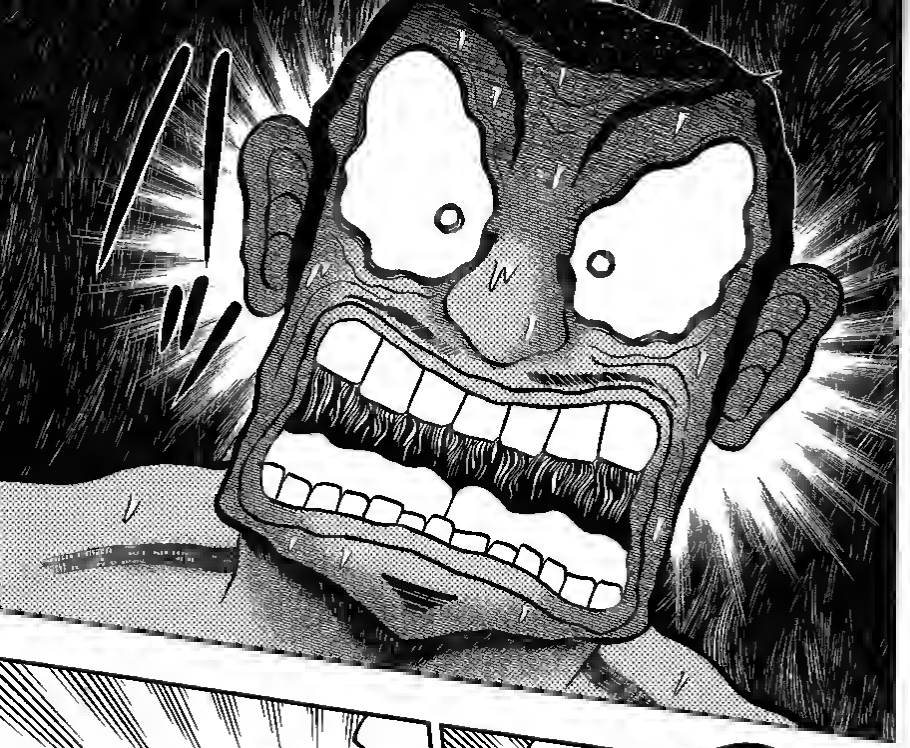
HUH?
LET'S GO

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SIR!
I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND!
FINE!

COME ON.
R-RIGHT...
YOU GOT THAT!?
THAT'S WHAT WE REALLY WANTED!

WAIT UP!
ZERO!
ZERO!

UMM,
YOU...
MAN, YOU SURE DID STRAIGHTEN THINGS OUT WITH HIM!
HUH?


WAIT, WAIT, WAIT!
HOLD ON, ZERO!
DIDN'T WE, LIKE,
BASICALLY GET NOTHING OUT OF THAT TALK JUST NOW?
AND DESPITE ALL YOUR TALK ABOUT A ONCE IN A LIFETIME GAMBLE,
HE ONLY SAID HE'D KEEP IT IN MIND!
YOU'RE TOO NAIVE, ZERO!
YOU CAN'T JUST END THIS MATTER LIKE THAT!

THAT'S THE ONLY RELIABLE REWARD!
COLD HARD CASH!
ONE MORE TIME!
YOU'VE GOTTA DO IT AGAIN!
YOUR NEGOTIATION ATTEMPT WAS NO GOOD!
IT'S NO GOOD!
WELL...
HUH?
HOW MUCH WOULD I HAVE TO GET TO SATISFY YOU, SUEZAKI?
NO, MAYBE A BILLION YEN?
6 OR 700...
500 MIL?
UMMM...

HOW ABOUT ONE BILLION YEN?
I MEAN, HE'S FILTHY RICH SO ASKING THAT MUCH SHOULDN'T BE TOO...
I SEE
.....
WELL IN THAT CASE,
KIJUROU'S A LOT MORE GENEROUS THAN EVEN YOU WANT HIM TO BE.
HUH?
W...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHEN WE RESCUED HIM,
HE GAVE US AN ENVELOPE WITH HIS SPECIAL 10,000 YEN BILL, REMEMBER?
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH..

HUH?
INSIDE THAT ENVE-LOPE.
THERE WAS ACTUALLY A PLASTIC CARD ABOUT THIS BIG,
YES.
ATM C-C...
A-ARE YOU T-T-TALKIN' ABOUT A...
B-BY THIS BIG,
THE SAME NUMBER WRITTEN AT THE TOP OF THE BILL.
THE PASSWORD FOR IT WAS 3776,
3776
AN ATM CARD!

WHAAAAAA?
I REALIZED WHAT HE REALLY MEANT TO TELL ME WITH THAT SPECIAL BILL OF HIS RIGHT AWAY
I... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
S-SO...
.....
HOW MUCH?
HOW MUCH WAS THERE INSIDE?
ONE BILLION.

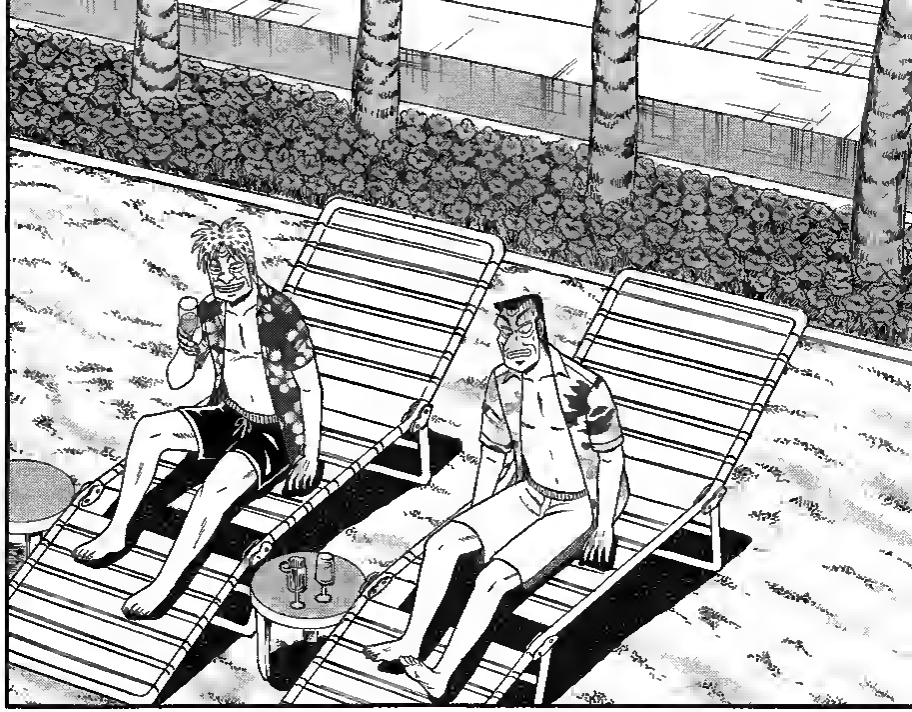
スッキリ!!
I FEEL MUCH BETTER NOW.
BUT I'M GLAD I RETURNED IT.
ヨロ!
2-ZERO.

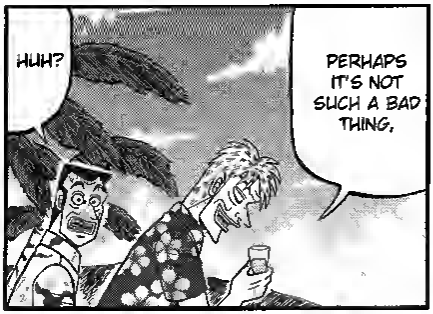
WHAT'RE YOU, A KID!?
HOW COULD YOU DO THAT!?
ARE YOU CRAZY?
YOU IDIOT! IDIOT! IDIOT!

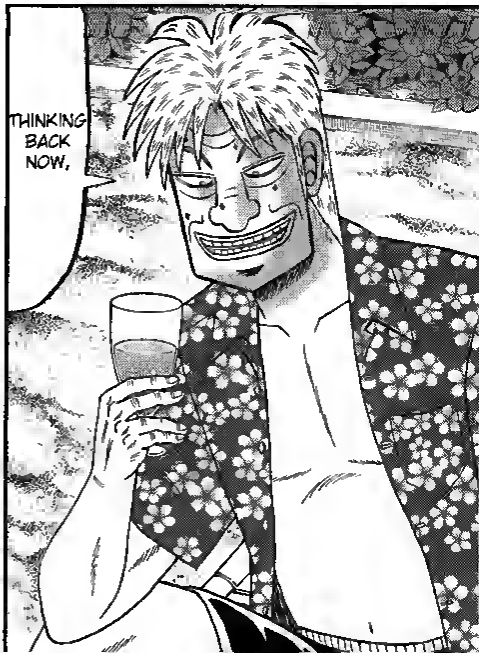
Chapter 88 Fate

賭博覇王伝
ゼロ
零
ギャンキ編
GYANKI
ZERO

TO ASK FOR OUR BILLION YEN BACK!
WE GOTTA TALK TO KIJUROU AGAIN,
NOW COME ON!
NO!
THE MATTER'S ALREADY BEEN SETTLED!
ズッ
グイッ
グイッ
LISTEN TO YOUR ELDERS FOR ONCE!
ハロイ
NOOO!
ズズッ
YOU'RE GONNA GO BACK AND ASK FOR THE MONEY NOW!
ズズズ

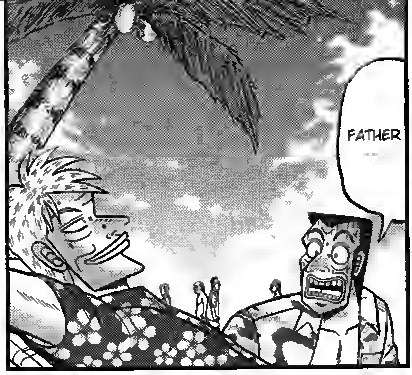



HUH?
PERHAPS IT'S NOT SUCH A BAD THING,

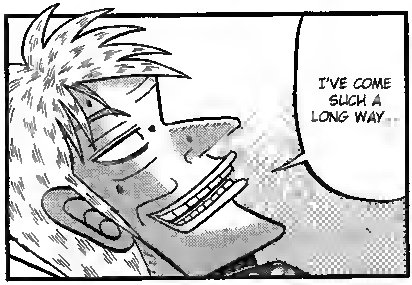

THINKING BACK NOW,

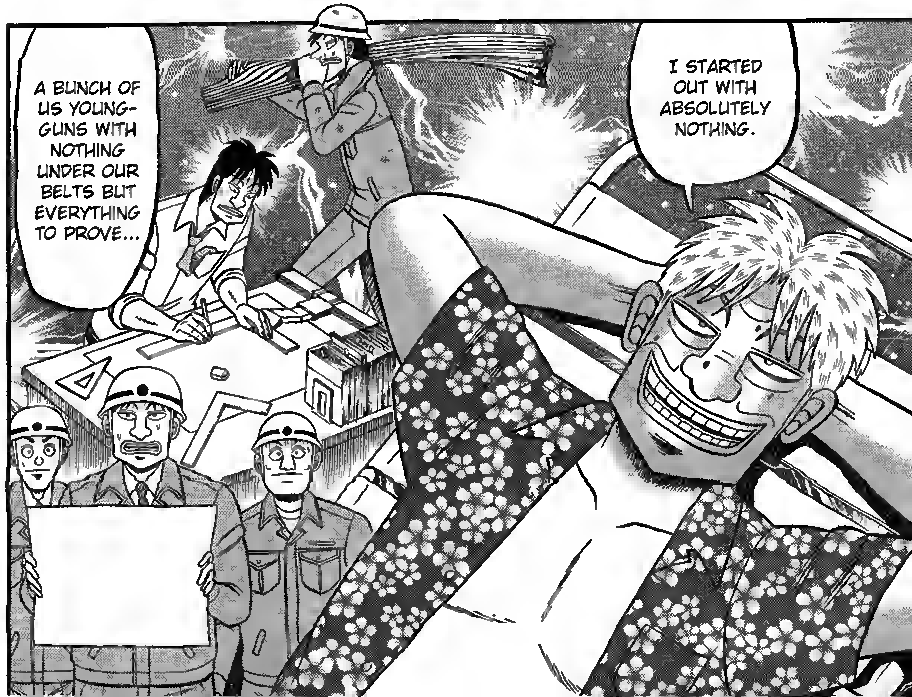
THAT I WAS CONFINED BELOW GROUND FOR THREE YEARS.

IT'S SHOWN ME,
WHA?
W-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, FATHER!?
WILL BE JUST FINE EVEN WITHOUT ME!
THAT BOTH YOU AND HOUOH CORP.,
NO, IT'S FINE.
HAHA
THE COMPANY AND I BOTH STILL NEED YOUR GUIDANCE...


FATHER

I'VE DONE ENOUGH.
ゴロ

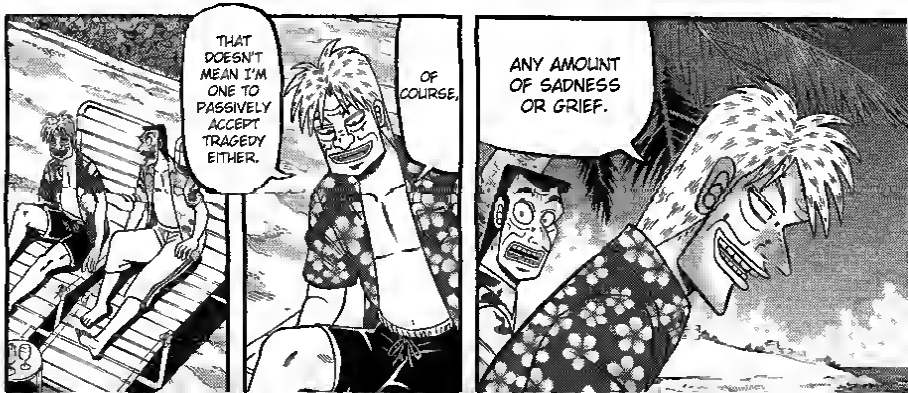

I'VE COME SUCH A LONG WAY

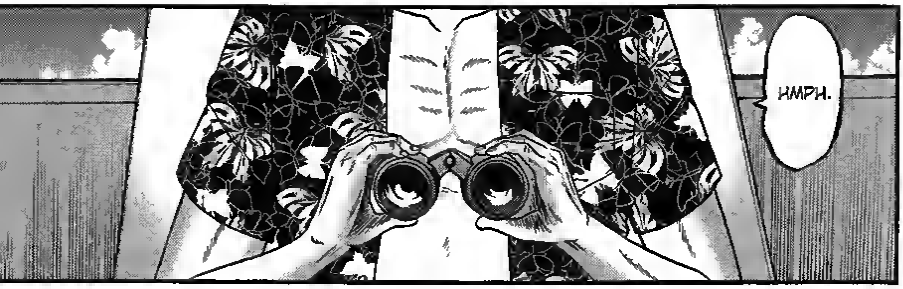

A BUNCH OF US YOUNG-GUNS WITH NOTHING UNDER OUR BELTS BUT EVERYTHING TO PROVE...
I STARTED OUT WITH ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.

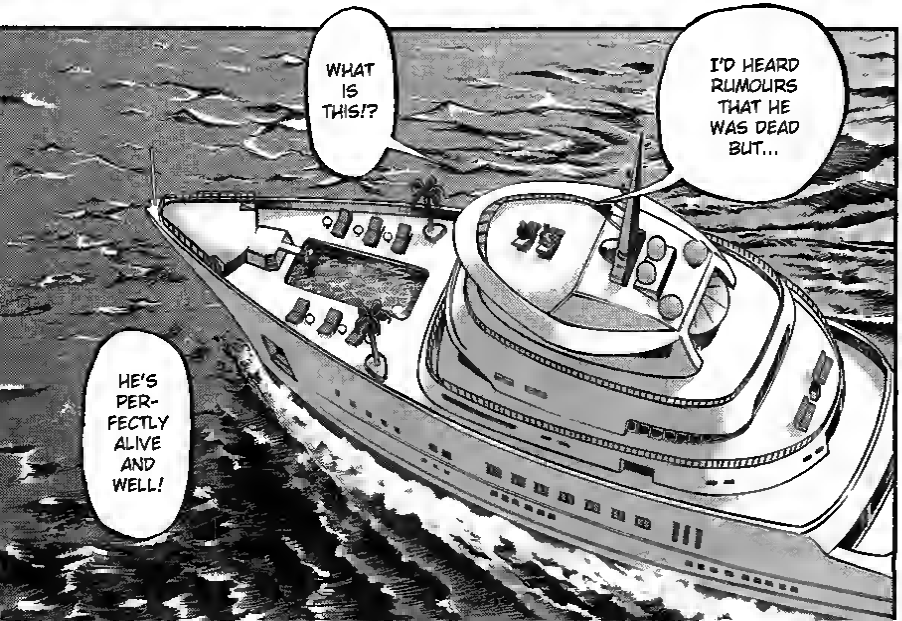
AND ONLY A SELECT FEW,
MOST OF MY OLD FRIENDS ARE NOW ALL DEAD,
ACHIEVED WHAT THEY WANTED.
TO MAKE OUR OWN FORTUNE!
WE TRIED OUR HARDEST,
I TRULY AM BLESSED...!
IN A WAY...
I DID HAVE MY FAIR SHARE OF MISFOR-TUNE AS WELL.
THAT BEING SAID,

IT WAS A FAR MORE MISFORTUNATE CARD THAN WHAT OTHERS GOT DEALT WITH!
FATHER ...
BUT EVEN SO,

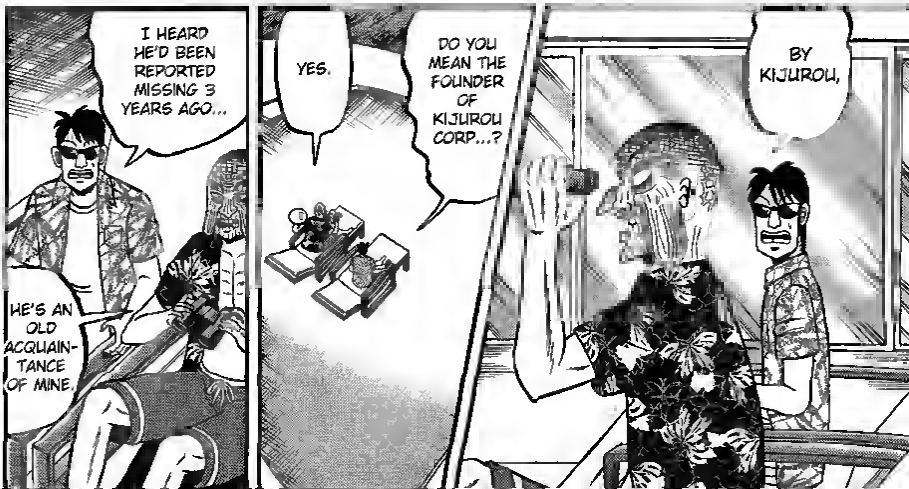
I ACCEPTED MY FATE,
AND CONTINUED TO MOVE FORWARDS!
AND SO I'VE BECOME ABLE,
TO MOVE PAST,


ANY AMOUNT OF SADNESS OR GRIEF.
OF COURSE,
THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M ONE TO PASSIVELY ACCEPT TRAGEDY EITHER.


HMPH.


WHAT IS THIS!?
I'D HEARD RUMOURS THAT HE WAS DEAD BUT...
HE'S PER-FECTLY ALIVE AND WELL!

KIJUROU!
President of
Zaizen Corp.
Zaizen Muryou

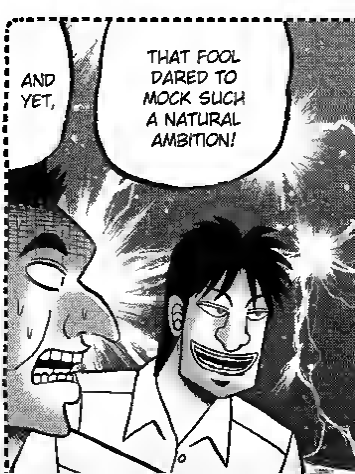

I HEARD HE'D BEEN REPORTED MISSING 3 YEARS AGO...
HE'S AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE OF MINE.
YES.
DO YOU MEAN THE FOUNDER OF KIJUROU CORP...?
BY KIJUROU,

AND HE'S BEEN,
ALL OF ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, AND HIGH SCHOOL WITH HIM
I WENT THROUGH
PARDON?
AN INSUFFERABLE PRICK FOR AS LONG AS I COULD REMEMBER!
AND WANT TO RULE OVER ALL OTHER MEN AND WOMEN
IF YOU'RE A REAL MAN, YOU SHOULD NATURALLY DESIRE POWER.
IN OTHER WORDS
ALWAYS PUTTING ON AIRS AS IF HE WERE ENLIGHTENED...
AH...

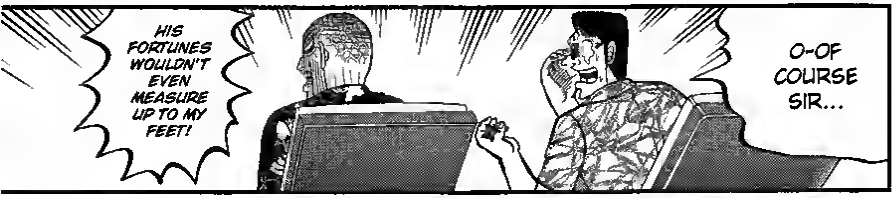
AND YET ...!
THE DESIRE TO BECOME A KING!

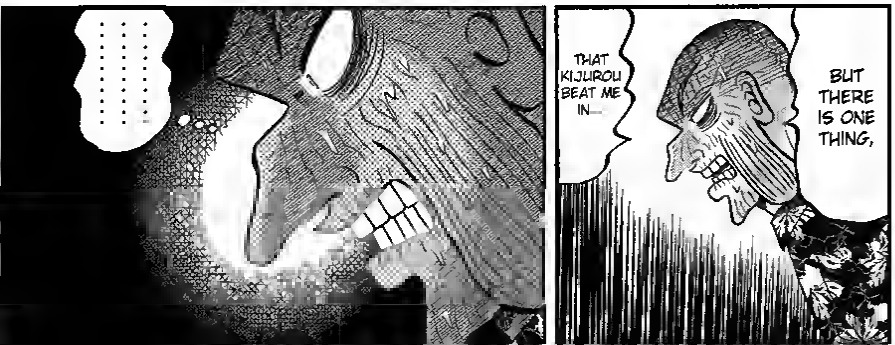
W-WELL,
HE STILL MANAGED TO FIND CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS!

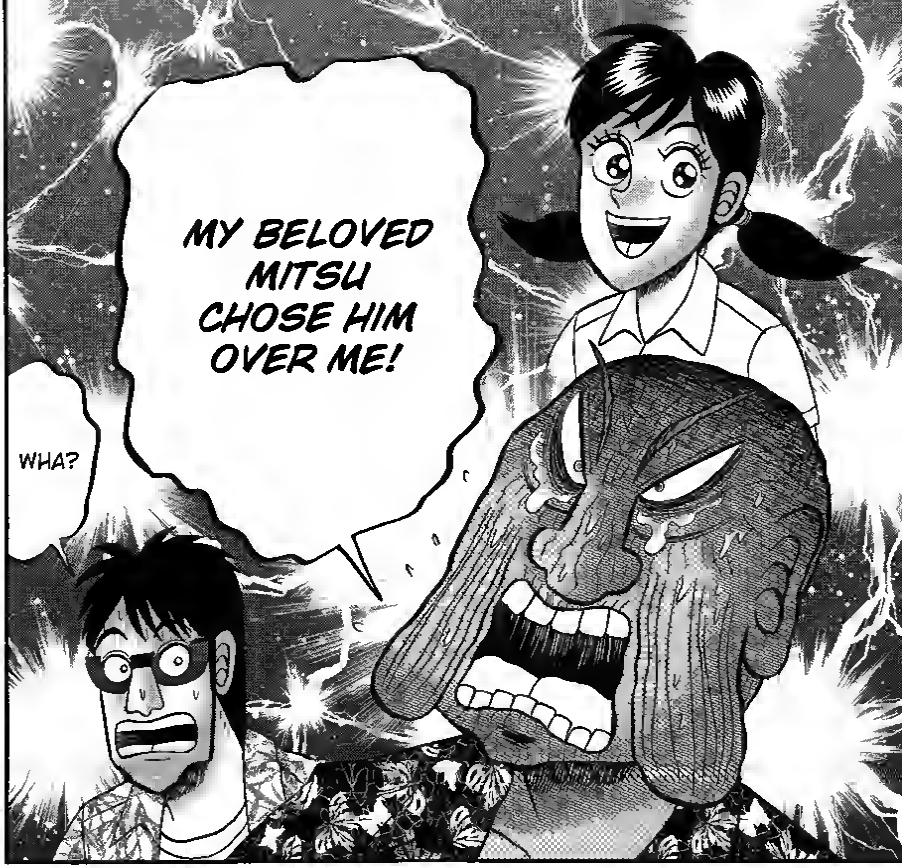
YOU NITWIT!
THE HOUCH CORP. IS CERTAINLY A POWERF-


AND YET,
THAT FOOL DARED TO MOCK SUCH A NATURAL AMBITION!

HOUOH IS NOTHING COMPARED TO ZAIZEN! I'M FAR MORE SUC-CESSFUL THAN THE LIKES OF HIM!
UU...


HIS FORTUNES WOULDN'T EVEN MEASURE UP TO MY FEET!
O-OF COURSE SIR...


.....
THAT KIJUROU BEAT ME IN...
BUT THERE IS ONE THING,


MY BELOVED MITSU CHOSE HIM OVER ME!
WHA?

SHE WAS NEVER AFRAID OF MY AUTHORITY NOR SYCOPHANTICALLY RESPECTFUL OF ME LIKE OTHERS WERE AROUND ME.
BUT SHE WAS THE PUREST GIRL TO HAVE EVER LIVED. SHE COULD BEAR NO ULTERIOR MOTIVE NOR ANY ILL THOUGHTS
SHE ACCEPTED ME FOR WHO I WAS.

SHE MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL,
MITSU?

I ADMIT IT!
I...
SIR?
NGH...!
UU...
TRULY LOVED HER!
I BIT THE BULLET AND CONFESSED MY LOVE TO HER!
WHEN I FINALLY BECAME A BILLIONAIRE AT THE AGE OF 30,

PLEASE MARRY ME!

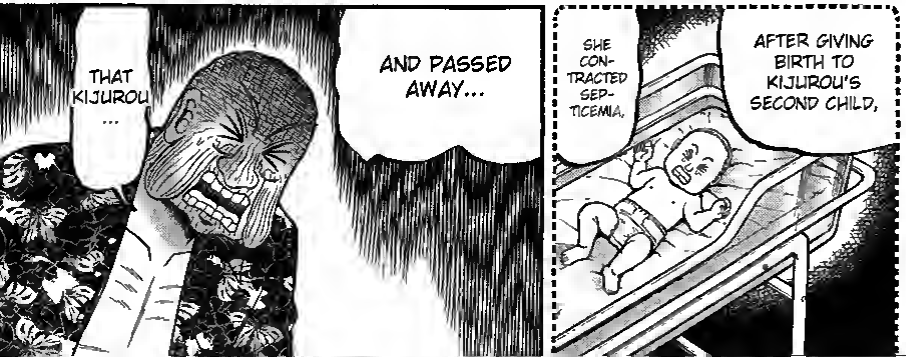
BUT SHE, REJECTED ME!
AM I... THE ONLY ONE THAT SEES WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT STORY...?

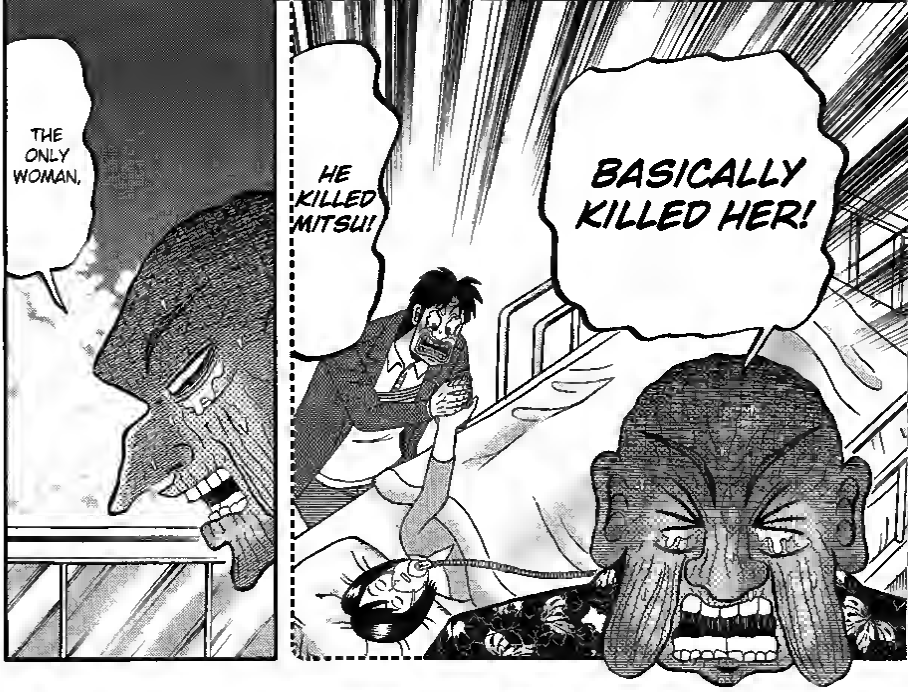
UU...!
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT.
UMM...

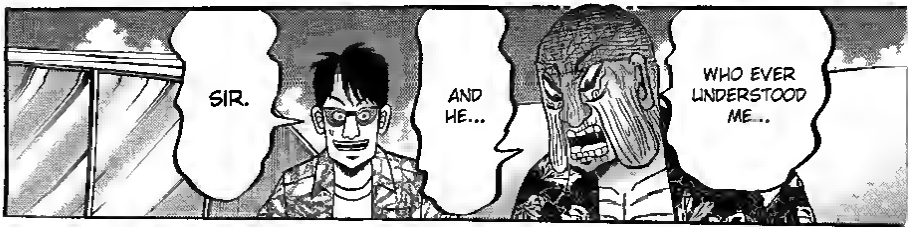
KIJUROU,
WELL, NO SHIT...
UHH...

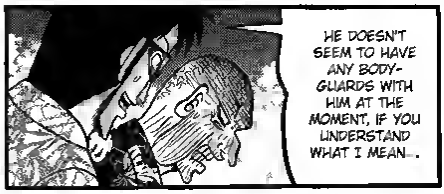
OH...
MY PRECIOUS MITSU!
HAD TAKEN HER AS HIS WIFE!

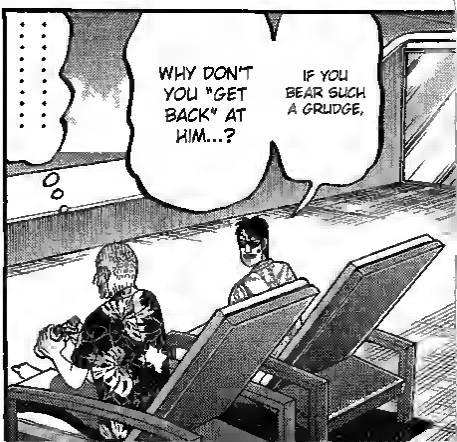
AND POOR MITSU...


THAT KIJUROU ...
AND PASSED AWAY...
SHE CON-TRACTED SEP-TICEMIA.
AFTER GIVING BIRTH TO KIJUROU'S SECOND CHILD,


THE ONLY WOMAN,
HE KILLED MITSU!
BASICALLY KILLED HER!

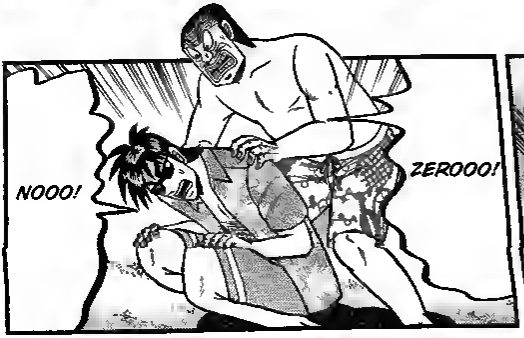

SIR.
AND HE...
WHO EVER UNDERSTOOD ME...


HE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY BODY-GUARDS WITH HIM AT THE MOMENT, IF YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I MEAN...


IF YOU BEAR SUCH A GRUDGE,
WHY DON'T YOU "GET BACK" AT HIM...?
.....
Oo.

ABSO-
LUTELY
NOT!
I SWEAR.
I REFUSE TO RELY ON HENCHMEN TO SETTLE MY SCORE WITH HIM!
FORGIVE ME, SIR!
F-
ALL ON MY OWN!
I'LL CRUSH HIM EVENTU-
ALLY.

I'LL STRIP HIM OF EVERY-THING HE'S GOT!


NOOO!
ZEROOO!

ZERO!
I SAID NO!
LISTEN TO ME!

NO MEANS NO!

ZERO!
ZEROOO!
ИШИ?

AHH!
AHHH!!
!!
CER-
TAINLY!

〔10巻・完〕

TRANSLATED BY HOX

零と標。

ついに直接対決!?

囁く金神・在全。

その目的は

!!?

最恐ギャンブル、
さらなる
ステージへ!!

賭博覇王伝 ゼロ

実全

ギャン鬼編

シリーズ再開を待て!

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